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Sun shines for photo-finish polling

Voters prefer coalition if hung election

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

WITH early indications from yesterday's polling supporting expectations of a hung parliament, a new survey has confirmed that Britons would rather see a coalition between two or more parties than have one of the main parties forming a minority government.

In an eve of election poll for The Times, Mori asked electors: "In principle would you prefer a minority government in which no single party has a majority of seats in the House of Commons, even if this means an early general election, or would you prefer to see a coalition government?"

Nearly half of those asked, 45 per cent, said they would prefer coalition government and only 39 per cent said they would prefer minority government. The public appears to be rejecting the stance of the two main party leaders. Both John Major and Neil Kinnock have said that they would not attempt to form a coalition if there were a hung parliament and they have indicated that they would at-



tempt to govern on their own, bringing the likelihood of another early election. But Paddy Ashdown, for the Liberal Democrats, has argued that if the voters present the nation with a hung parliament today, it would be arrogant for either of the two main parties to seek to govern on less than 40 per cent of the national vote.

The Mori survey, conducted among 1,731 adults in 164 constituencies on Tuesday and Wednesday, also asked electors what they would prefer Mr Ashdown and the Liberal Democrats to do in a hung parliament. Feelings were fairly evenly split. While 36 per cent of respondents thought that Mr Ashdown and his party should vote with the Conservatives to keep them in power, 38 per cent thought they should vote with Labour to put them into government.

Checks by party workers at polling stations and heavy election betting yesterday confirmed the likelihood of a close result when the full seats tally is known later today. Mr Major, arriving to vote in his Huntingdon constituency with his wife Norma, declared confidently: "I'm feeling lucky. We are going to win," he said. "I've said so consistently from the beginning of the campaign. I'm not going to change my mind now."

Mr Kinnock and his wife, Glens, cast their votes at St Augustine's church hall in the village of Pontlanfraith.

which lies in his Islywn, South Wales, constituency. "The sun is out," he said. "So are the Tories. I think we are in a very good position to win." He admitted that he was slightly nervous but said that was only natural on polling day.

Mr Ashdown, the first of the three party leaders to vote, walked to the local Nortonsub Hamdon polling station in his Yeovil constituency with his wife Jane at 8am. "It's been a great campaign, it's ending with wonderful weather," he said. During the morning the Ashdowns visited other Somerset polling stations at the Yeovil Sports Club and Marl Court primary school in Chard. They returned home at midday for lunch and a chance to catch up on sleep after what has been a particularly arduous campaign for the Liberal Democrat leader, who is estimated to have travelled 25,000 miles during the past month. Last night they left their cottage at about 11.30pm to drive to Westland Sports and Social Club in Yeovil to await the declaration of Mr Ashdown's constituency result.

The latest Mori survey also asked voters who they thought would make the best prime minister. The research showed that 38 per cent preferred Mr Major, 27 per cent named Mr Kinnock and 20 per cent Mr Ashdown. While among Conservative supporters 88 per cent thought Mr Major was the best man for the job, only 66 per cent of Labour supporters thought Mr Kinnock would make the best prime minister and just 58 per cent of Liberal Democrat backers thought Mr Ashdown would be the best choice.

Both Mr Major's and Mr Ashdown's personal popularity fell by two points during the four-week campaign, while Mr Kinnock remained on the same figure. Eight per cent of Labour supporters think that Mr Major would be the best prime minister and 6 per cent of them believe

Home thoughts, page 2
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Tsongas throws in nomination towel

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PAUL Tsongas will not re-enter the race for the Democratic party's presidential nomination in spite of winning an unsolicited 29 per cent of the New York primary vote on Tuesday.

The former senator's decision, announced in Boston yesterday, means that Bill Clinton, governor of Arkansas, is assured of the most valuable Democratic nomination since Watergate - barring new disclosures about his past.

Terry Brown, the former California governor, has been sidelined by his poor performances in Tuesday's four primaries. Both the Clinton

camp and Ron Brown, the party chairman, are now striving to rally a still-nervous party establishment behind the presumptive nominee so that the Democrats' fire can be trained on President Bush as early as possible.

Mr Tsongas said he would have re-entered the race had Mr Brown won primaries on Tuesday, but Mr Clinton's victories tilted him to the role of "spoiler". He urged his supporters to cease their efforts on his behalf, but declined to endorse Mr Clinton or to say if he would consider being his running mate.

Clinton bandwagon, page 15

Noriega guilty on 8 counts

By Our Foreign Staff

MANUEL Noriega was convicted yesterday of eight out of ten drug and racketeering charges that led to America's invasion of Panama in 1989.

The former Panamanian leader was found guilty of the key counts of racketeering and racketeering conspiracy, plus six lesser charges. He was acquitted of two lesser charges, cocaine distribution and conspiracy to import cocaine.

The federal court trial in Miami lasted seven months, during which the government lawyers painstakingly built their case against a head of state who they branded "a small man in a general's uniform".

The jury took five days to reach its verdict.

Millionaire farmer found murdered

By Stewart Tandler, Crime Correspondent

A WEALTHY farmer has been found dead in a hollow on his land near Salisbury. He had been shot twice in the back.

Detectors believe an earlier mysterious knife attack on Peter Jowett, aged 43, in his home at Winterslow four months ago could be linked with the murder. Mr Jowett needed surgery for stab wounds but did not call the police and three weeks later asked them to call off their investigation.

Detectors are also investigating the millionaire's social and private life. Mr Jowett, married with two children, was found by police lying in a copse on the edge of his 900-acre farm.

His car had been left parked on a grass verge on the A30 nearby. He disappeared while in charge of lambing on his farm and his absence was not noted until one of his staff came to relieve him on Wednesday night and could not find him.

Yesterday police searched the area around where the body was found and last night discovered a gun incorporated in a booby-trap device, believed to be the murder weapon.

In the village Mr Jowett was described as "a ladies' man" and one theory was that the attacks were motivated by jealousy.

Police said that Mr Jowett, described by neighbours as a pleasant and quiet man, had not reported any threats to his life nor were police aware of any threats.

Earlier attack, page 3

Polls apart: on a sunshine election day John Major looks for last-minute signs of victory in the garden of a house at Alconbury which is used as local Conservative campaign headquarters, and Neil Kinnock hails what he hopes will be a Labour dawn after voting at a church hall in Pontlanfraith



TOMORROW IN THE TIMES

An instant guide to the Commons

Tomorrow, The Times publishes a 16-page supplement giving complete seat-by-seat results of the general election. The supplement lists all candidates, the votes they won and the swings they registered. It also contains potted biographies of the winners, making it the best immediately-available guide to the new House of Commons.

A new feature in this year's supplement is a full colour map of the country, showing at a glance which party won what seats where. Bob Worcester of Mori will also give his full analysis of how the votes moved: North and South, young and old, women and men.

The Times supplement is only one part of the comprehensive coverage planned for tomorrow, which will include campaign facts and figures; analysis of what happens next; and the human stories of defeat and triumph: a vital issue for the vital issues.

London gambles on Tories

By Rodney Hobson

SHARES surged in London as investors gambled that increased support for the Conservatives in the last opinion polls of the campaign would translate into a Tory victory.

About £8.6 billion was added to share values as the FT-SE top 100 index soared 42 points to close at its best level of the day. It was the biggest one-day rise this year.

Privatised stocks led the way with Northern Electricity up 18p to 258p and most water stocks at least 10p better. The pound was firm as prospects of an interest rate rise receded.

In Tokyo, the Nikkei average fell heavily, by 577.38 points to 16,598.15, sending shock waves through the financial community. In New York, the Dow Jones average was 40 points ahead by mid-session.

Human cost, page 15
Leading article, page 17
Nikkei still falling, page 21

Black Sea fleet truce

Russia and Ukraine backed off from each other in their dispute over the Black Sea fleet with Presidents Yeltsin and Kravchuk both suspending decrees claiming control of the fleet. In Moscow, members of the Russian Congress moved to strip Mr Yeltsin of some of his presidential powers and to prevent him holding both the presidency and prime ministership. Page 14

Windfall lost

THE Church of England and St Bartholomew's hospital, London, lost the multi-million pound windfall they were expecting from the King's Cross redevelopment when the Court of Appeal overturned a ruling that they had a right to buy back 52 acres at 1850s prices. Page 5

Cooling off

Fewer than one in ten doctors knows how to use a thermometer properly, according to a survey of Surrey GPs. Few used a thermometer at all, and those that did admitted they did not always clean it properly. Page 3

Delors angry

Jacques Delors is complaining that EC ministers are failing to discuss seriously a bigger Community budget and that nobody has considered how an expanded EC might function. Page 14

Trips threat

School trips abroad and town winning exchanges could be threatened by an EC directive which will require organisers to put down a bond to protect passengers, as big tour operators do. Page 20

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Punters bet £7m on race for Downing Street

By Alan Hamilton

PITY the poor punter in South Africa who telephoned William Hill on Wednesday with a £10,000 bet on Labour taking the most seats at 3-1 on. He was much too hasty; had he waited until yesterday morning to catch the last-minute change in the wind, he would have increased his potential winnings from £3,000 to £8,000 as the odds drifted away from Labour and back to a neck-and-neck race.

With the final opinion polls showing a modest Tory revival, the big bookmakers eventually closed the book at 5pm yesterday afternoon quoting identical odds of 6-5 on Labour or Conservatives forming the largest single party, although a hung parliament remained the most favoured outcome at odds of 5-2. There had been a brief rally to Labour

in mid-afternoon, taking them to 11-8 on favourites with the Tories trailing at even money, but it did not last. Bookmakers are entirely non-political animals; they merely rake in the loot. Odds reflect only one thing: the amount of money placed on any particular outcome. The amount placed this time appears to have been something of a record.

In 1987 the book was closed well before the end of campaigning, so cut-and-dried did the result appear, but yesterday - for the first time - the bookies were taking election bets on polling day, and of the cascade of money showering across the counters, three quarters of it was on the Tories. The tide turned after lunch, with a late surge to Labour.

Election fever has gripped the punting classes as never before, and the industry estimated that by the time it closed the book last night it

had taken more than £7 million. Takings have been pushed up by the wide range of tempting bets on offer from an industry struggling to maintain its traditional income from horse racing. The big chains have been offering odds on the outcome in 100 individual constituencies.

Bets poured in to Britain's three big bookmaking chains from all corners of the globe, and even Brighton, from where one customer placed £18,000 on Labour being the largest single party. The bookmakers briefly caught their breath, until an account customer in Hong Kong, where gambling is such an endemic disease that the World Health Organisation does not even bother to monitor it, wagered £10,000 on a Tory win. An optimistic Scot from north of Berwick, where the Tories have faced virtual annihilation for several years, has put £6,000 on the northern king-

dom's least favoured party ending up with the most seats at Westminster; the sporrán has always taken precedence over the heart.

By midday yesterday Glenda Jackson had become almost unbackable in Hampstead, at odds of 9-1 on. But some customers were still prepared to invest fortunes to win peanuts. One punter in Southend invested £11,000 in Ms Jackson. Chris Patten, who started at even money to hold Bath, had drifted out to 6-5 against by yesterday morning as his hopes seemed to diminish. Yet most of the day's money was clearly on the Tories, and one major chain took no less than £30,000 of it in the first 30 minutes of business.

But the fickle jade of fate has taken several turns in the last 24 hours. Labour were leading up to Wednesday afternoon, when the first sniff of

Continued on page 20, col 1

"As far as I'm concerned we've always had Home Rule. Never turn up without a bottle of Whyte & Mackay."

RORY MCGREGOR



Home thoughts from sidewalk, boulevard and Kenya's surf set



Thatcher hurrying back to cast her vote

UNITED STATES: AMERICAN political trends tend to follow those in Britain (Martin Fletcher writes). That may explain the eagerness of White House staffers to attend last night's election party at the British embassy. Those with invitations were said to be distributing photocopies to those without.

"It's become the hottest ticket in town," one observer said. Some 300 guests were expected, not in the ambassador's magnificent Lutetia residence on Massachusetts Avenue, but in the rather more prosaic modern office block next door. Congressmen, journalists and the capital's ubiquitous "senior administration officials" were coming, and as late as yesterday morning congressional aides were ringing to ask for tickets.

Some thought was given to inviting Margaret Thatcher, who was rounding off an American speaking tour, but she was hurrying back to Britain to vote.

Thanks to the time difference,

Seen from abroad, the election has a different perspective. *Times* correspondents report on the British communities in three capitals

Washington's British press corps — at least those not hired as temporary pundits by American television stations — was savouring the prospect of watching the results in mid-evening for a change and not during the small hours of morning.

The embassy's press office, the official hosts, had arranged to pluck ITN's coverage off a passing satellite and set up a scoreboard to keep a running tally. It also set up telephone lines to field queries from the American media about what promised, in the event of a hung parliament, to be a very confusing evening. The embassy, of course, is strictly non-partisan.

In New York, both the BBC and the British Information Service were hosting parties. The BIS was

also plucking coverage off satellite via the Rockefeller Center for the 300 guests, mostly media, that it planned to feed with pork pies, veal and ham pies, Branstons pickle and pickled onions. It had also prepared detailed information packs on British electoral peculiarities. "I have been boring up all month," Mike Horne, the BIS director, said.

Ex-pats across America could watch the results come in. They were being carried live all evening by the C-Span network, which gave extensive coverage to the campaign, and by 23 Public Broadcasting Service stations in most major cities.

A number of us will be sitting anxiously awaiting the outcome," said Barry New, president of the

British American Business Association, which will shortly be giving a lunch for American businessmen to explain implications of the results.

□ **FRANCE:** Election night in Paris led the select few, more simply the lucky, to the magnificent surroundings of Her Britannic Majesty's spacious embassy on Faubourg St Honoré (a correspondent writes).

As veterans of the Parisian social scene know well, the hospitality offered by Sir Ewen and Lady Ferguson is second to none, with a refreshing absence of the heavy formality encountered elsewhere on the diplomatic circuit. What is more, the resident British press corps can always rely on a splendid Caledonian welcome (HM's embassies elsewhere, please note).

With buffet and bar to hand and a home-made swingometer in the wings, not to mention the services of Radio 4 and BBC Television via cable — installed in the nick of

time — the scene was set for a dramatic denouement around midnight in Paris, which is an hour ahead of London.

Embassy staff had bought their tickets in the election sweepstakes six weeks ago and no adjustments were permitted. Wild horses could not extract further details about who had drawn what.

Blow-ups of the colour election charts from *The Times* adorned the historic walls of the embassy. Honesty obliges one to note that other newspapers were also represented. Elsewhere in Paris, the local branch of the Conservative party was preparing to celebrate/drown sorrows at a hotel, the local Labour party was looking forward to a jolly knees-up and the Liberal Democrats had switched on their answering machine.

□ **KENYA:** The prospect of a Labour victory drove the expatriate community in Kenya, traditionally more interested in surfing and safaris than the affairs of the home

country, to even greater lengths of apathy (Sam Kiley writes).

Unlike other parts of the world where Britons away from home sat glued to the BBC World Service to find out whether 13 years of Conservative rule had come to an end, expatriates in Kenya seemed hardly aware that Britain was in the midst of a political spasm.

In the exclusive Muthaiga suburb, home of the British High Commission Residence and the infamous Muthaiga Club, Nairobi's expatriate elite attended a party not in celebration or mourning of the election, but to say farewell to a junior diplomat leaving the foreign service.

"The prospect of a Labour victory has driven Britons in Kenya further into their shells than ever before," one seasoned observer said. "I doubt they would have taken much interest if the Conservatives had looked like winning, but they are now affecting a look of total indifference."

Democracy has a day of ups and downs

Poll refugees find sanctuary on Lundy

By LIN JENKINS AND LOUISE HIDALGO

THE emotions of a tough campaign were still evident at the polling stations as the nation voted yesterday. Some party supporters tried foul means to influence the outcome; others complained of seemingly innocent factors that could affect the vote.

In Brighton a verger was arrested after complaints that voters were being bribed, and in Bath an offer of free drinks if Chris Patten lost was abandoned for the same reason.

Two polling stations that happened to be painted in one party's colours had to be covered in brown paper.

Few places escaped the last-minute loud-hailer appeals on behalf of candidates. The island of Lundy in the Bristol Channel was one, attracting an unexpected influx of bird watchers who enjoyed the island's detachment from the election, since it has no polling station and no television sets have been banned from visitors' rooms until Sunday. The bird

watchers, of course, maintained that the attraction was really a murrelet, a tiny bird from the Pacific Ocean, making only its second appearance in Europe.

The verger in Brighton was arrested after allegations that voters were being offered £7.50 to vote Labour with stolen polling cards. He was questioned and freed on police bail.

Campaigners against the business rate in Bath cancelled publicised plans to give a free glass of buck's fizz to each customer at a local club if Mr Patten, the Conservative party chairman, lost his seat in the closely fought contest. Phil Andrews, owner of Mole's nightclub, said: "We were told that we could be charged with infringing electoral law."

In Lincoln Tories complained when two portable cabins to be used as polling stations arrived painted red and yellow, the colours of Labour posters. Winston

Crumbieholme, a councillor, said: "I was horrified. The cabins could have had a real influence on people." The council wrapped the cabins in brown paper to provide political anonymity. Chris Keywood, deputy returning officer, said that no colour had been specified when they were ordered.

All manner of buildings were used as polling stations. One couple who allowed their home, Copley Hall, in Howick, Northumberland, to be used for polling found that they were not eligible to cast their vote there, but had to travel three miles to a neighbouring ward. David and Christine Jackson now want the boundary changed.

Voters in Bishopswood, Bristol, had the most unconventional polling station after vandals super-glued the doors of the building that was to have been used. Janet Redman, the presiding officer, stuck the polling station sticker on her Morris Ital windscreen and put the ballot boxes in the boot.

About 60 people cast their vote before the building doors were un-stuck. In Exeter the skittle alley of the Ship and Parrot served as the venue.

A couple from West Drayton, west London, failed yesterday in their High Court attempt to force the council to include them on the electoral roll so that they could vote. Steve and Jacqueline Cripps realised only last week that they had forgotten to register.

Mr Justice Schiemann ruled that the law did not allow for last minute changes to the register. Mrs Cripps said that the case had cost them £500.

A group of people in Fenby Drayton, Warwickshire, and another group in Featherstone, near Castleford, Yorkshire, discovered yesterday that they had been disfranchised. Those in Fenby Drayton had planned to take a case to the High Court since they blame the local council, but yesterday abandoned the action because of cost.

The residents of a new estate of 32 homes were left with no vote after Wakefield council admitted that it had made a mistake and missed it off the electoral roll. The council said: "The development is tucked away behind shops and was unfortunately missed when forms were distributed."

The Royal Mail is holding an enquiry after 20,000 polling cards were not delivered by last Thursday's deadline. Of the main parties, the



Action stations: Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, after rising early yesterday to cast his vote at Norton sub Hamdon, near Yeovil

Adding up a costly contest

By ALAN HAMILTON

THERE is nothing like an election for stimulating a stagnant economy and putting money into circulation. The cost of yesterday's exercise in democracy is estimated at £100 million, with the taxpayer the loser and the media the main beneficiary. Public funds pay for the machinery of election. The provision of facilities and staff in polling stations from Shetland to the Isles of Scilly, with legions of polling clerks and tellers paid a day's labour, is estimated to have cost about £40 million.

Of the main parties, the

Tories appear to have run the costliest campaign, and a figure of £20 million was suggested yesterday, compared with £8 million spent by Labour and £1.5 million by the Liberal Democrats.

The Tory campaign was, as ever, funded largely by big business. Labour relied on the covert support of the trade unions, who it is estimated met three quarters of their party's campaign costs. Readers of *The Times* will have noticed full-page advertisements from a number of unions backing the Labour cause, including Nalco, the

NUT and the Inland Revenue Staff Federation.

One of the most successful advertisers has been the International Federation for Animal Welfare, which has spent £750,000 on newspaper space, bringing 60,000 requests for its information pack, it says.

Although the media has raked in large extra sums as a result of election campaigns, it has spent heavily too. Television, radio and newspapers have spent an estimated £10 million on election coverage, much of it on commissioning opinion polls.

VOX POP
By Peter Barnard

A whiff of scandal brings rude awakening

YOU did your duty last night and now you are sitting on the train to work. You are enfeebled by lack of sleep and think you may have overdone on Dimbleby or Day.

A man sitting opposite is looking disconcertingly chipper, so much so that he wants to talk.

"Did you see it?" "God, yes, stayed up all..." "Marvellous girl, eh? Well both of 'em, really. You can see how Profumo..."

You rub your eyes. You search the memory. You can recall a swingometer, you can summon at least 200 returning officers, you can describe Peter Snow's tie and remember when he loosened it. But a girl? He is talking again.

"Couldn't decide whether to watch it and record *Have I Got News For You* or the other way around. In the end flicked between the channels. Sex and satire, marvellous stuff."

Sex and satire? You wouldn't put it quite like that. A woman in the corner seat pipes up. "Once Bitten" she says. "Unmissable..."

"Sorry?" "Once Bitten. Horror film on Sky. Female vampire recruiting male virgins, amazing. So was..."

Very briefly indeed, an image of Margaret Thatcher naming a new cabinet crosses your mind.

"Trapped, woman stuck in office building with crazed killer. Also *The Freaks*, which preceded *Trapped Once Bitten*. Watched all three, marvellous..."

By now your mental health is endangered. You have not yet worked out the bit about girls and Profumo, let alone the male virgins and the crazed killer. So you say: "Those girls, yes, a damned nuisance. I missed it, you know... had to, um, pop out..."

The man looks as if he is about to pass you over for promotion. "Scandal," he says. "Channel Four last night. All about Christine Keeler and Mandy Rice-Davies and Stephen Ward and John Profumo, terrific stuff. Of course in those days politics had a bit of zip to it."

At last the penny drops. The prognosis for the rest of your career looks, and it does not look good.

You have committed the cardinal sin. You have stepped on to the commuter train having failed to see anything worth talking about on television last night.

Wife of candidate dies after 999 call

The wife of a Labour candidate died of a suspected heart attack yesterday morning. Chitra Viswanatha, aged 35, rang an ambulance at 11.40am but collapsed while on the telephone. She was taken to Whittington hospital, north London, where her death was certified.

Her husband, Martin Upham, aged 45, was contesting Enfield North, held in 1987 by Tim Eggars, junior education minister, with a majority of 14,000. Mr Upham was at Labour's campaign headquarters when he was told the news.

It is understood that he returned home to Hornsey, north London, to comfort his two young daughters, Mr Upham, a freelance writer and lecturer, was not expected at the constituency count.

Postal voters counted out

More than 200 sick and elderly people were deprived of a vote yesterday when a mailbag containing requests for postal and proxy votes was delivered to Camden town hall, north London, after the legal time limit.

The bag is believed to have lain forgotten at St Pancras Way sorting office, a mile from its destination. Labour, which has a large majority in Camden, realised the mistake when the final voting register was published last week. The Post Office is to investigate after a complaint by the acting returning officer.

Ambridge agog for poll result

Whoever is called to Buckingham Palace to form the new government will receive a mention in tonight's episode of *The Archers*, even though the show was taped six weeks ago.

Scriptwriters and stars of the BBC rural of country folk are on stand-by to record a "topical insert". A spokesman said: "It's a real rush job. We only do this very rarely. The last was for Terry Waite's release. If the topic is of such importance that the whole country is talking about it, then Ambridge will be too."

CORRECTION

Due to a computer error, a number of the figures given for the size of constituency electorates in 1992 in yesterday's election guide to seats and seats were incorrect. The correct figures will be included in the full 16-page results supplement to be published in tomorrow's *Times*.

All-too-cosy conspiracy shows contempt for voter



CAMPAIGN SKETCH

MATTHEW PARRIS

NOT many days ago, a coachload of photographers and journalists drew up at a school. So did Mr Kinnoch. Mr Kinnoch got out of his car. The photographers climbed out of their coaches. The children came out of their classrooms.

Mr Kinnoch stood among the children. The photographers formed a ring around the ensemble. He smiled at them and the children smiled back. The photographers took photographs.

Then a man said: "Back into the coach" and the photographers obeyed. Mr Kinnoch returned to his car and drove off. The coach drove off. They were going to another school.

And the question arises: Why? When I was very young, politicians would tour around meeting voters. The voters were the object of this exercise: the aim was to attract their support by calling in person. Reporters and photographers were a nuisance and either excluded from these occasions, or tolerated, under protest, in small numbers. But it soon occurred to

politicians that the report and pictures of their tours reached more voters than the tours themselves. The media began to be welcomed. Next, the politicians realised that, if part of the object of the tour was to achieve media coverage, then it should be planned with the media in mind. Notice was given, and party aides began making arrangements for the convenience of the politicians and the electors, but of the media too. It was not long before tours were chosen as much for their interest to the cameramen as for the impact they would make on the places and people visited.

The next chapter in this unfolding story describes the stage we have reached now. The voter has become an intrusion upon the me-

dia's encounter with the politician. The voter is in the way. Party leaders attract large numbers of photographers and reporters, and take with them a growing party of aides, campaign co-ordinators, spin doctors and security personnel. There is hardly room left in the average school hall, factory forecourt or intensive care ward for children, workers or casualties.

Besides, real conversation with such people has become impossible before so vast and intimidating an audience. The technical paraphernalia that now accompany a recording and photographic team are awesome, and frightening to ordinary people. Schools, factories and hospitals are not really designed with the lighting and sound requirements of the media in mind.

Batteries run out and there may be no sockets for plugs. Harsh lights may hurt sick patients, and extraneous background noise — of teachers teaching, lathes turning, or patients groaning — may interrupt the political message.

Yet, however taken, the presence of some apparently real people in apparently real situations is a necessary component in television or newspaper drama. The viewer requires it. The dilemma is acute.

The dilemma can be resolved. I have a modest proposal for the next election. Why not use actors? Why move large numbers of media and political personnel to inconvenient locations around the country, when there are studios in London perfectly equipped to simulate them? Why does the limousine need to travel 400 miles up and down the motorway when a shot of Mr Kinnoch stepping into it in London, and another shot of him getting out, with a sign "Welcome to Leeds" tacked onto the canvas backdrop behind him, will do? I grant that the idea takes a little

swallowing. Still, photographers remain truculent. But television is what matters and a video camera-man's professional ethos lies in the art of illusion. By way of example, let me leave you — and this campaign — with a question.

Did you see any of Mr Ashdown's town hall speeches on television, not a note before him, his head sweeping from left to right? You did? And did you ever see a camera shot of the text scrolling across his two AutoCue glasses? Did you heck. And do you agree that it is of legitimate interest to the voter that his apparently impromptu speaking style was a trick?

In television, as in politics, things have to be contrived. It breeds a loyalty to artifice. This loyalty, unconsciously shared between politicians and television producers, is a conspiracy against the citizen. If Mr Kinnoch's famous stumble on the sand at Brighton was to occur today, there are TV producers who would mutter "Take 2" and ask him to try the walk again, this time without falling.

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THE Church of St Bartholomew, London, yesterday announced a multi-million pound expected from £4.5 billion red King's Cross London.

The Court of turned a High ruling two years hospital trust Church Comm right to buy back Rail and Nati 52 acres of pr ment land at 18 The ruling, v challenged in Lords, is a blow tal and to the latter would be money to stipends.

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Church and hospital lose multi-million King's Cross windfall

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Church of England and St Bartholomew's hospital, London, yesterday lost a multi-million pound windfall expected from the proposed £4.5 billion redevelopment of King's Cross station, north London.

The Court of Appeal overturned a High Court judge's ruling two years ago that the hospital trustees and the Church Commissioners had a right to buy back from British Rail and National Carriers 52 acres of prime development land at 1850s prices.

The ruling, which may be challenged in the House of Lords, is a blow to the hospital and to the church. The latter would have used the money to raise clergy stipends.

Sir Douglas Lovelock, the first church estates commissioner, said that the commissioners would consider the implications of the ruling. He added that those affected would be the clergy. "We are not talking here about an immediate source of income, but rather a stock of capital which, at the end of the day, might produce additional income for clergy stipends."

Andrew Campbell, solicitor to the special trustees of St Bartholomew's, said that the trustees were disappointed with the decision, and that they needed time to read it and to decide what to do. He was unable to give details about how the money might have been spent.

The land was compulsorily purchased under the Great

Northern Railway Act 1846 to make way for train lines. In 1849 and 1850, Bart's was forced to surrender 43 acres, for which it was paid £53,250. The Church Commissioners sold nine acres, also under compulsory purchase powers. The land is part of a 125-acre site to the north of King's Cross station which has been earmarked for an ambitious development, including a Channel tunnel rail link terminus, offices, shops, 1,350 homes and a 35-acre park.

Under the High Court's buy-back ruling, Bart's and the church could have purchased the land at the original price of about £1,100 an acre and then sold it at enormous profit. However, their hopes were dashed yesterday when Lord Justice Nourse, Taylor and Stuart-Smith allowed an appeal by the landowners, BR and National Carriers.

Lord Justice Nourse said that if the earlier decision had stood, the hospital and the church would receive "windfalls of vast proportions". It was true that the Great Northern Railway Act, under which the land was compulsorily purchased, gave a right to buy back at the initial price. However, that right had been repealed by subsequent legislation, either under The London and North Eastern Railway Act 1935 or the British Transport Commission Act 1949.

Lord Justice Stuart-Smith said that he allowed the ap-

peal "without regret". He said: "If anyone is to receive a windfall of vast proportions, no doubt St Bartholomew's hospital and the Church Commissioners are among the most deserving recipients. But the fact is they each received the full building value of the land in the 1850s, and, with proper investment and management, they should now have investments representing the inflated value of the land they sold."

If British Rail and National Carriers lost their appeal, they would have to part with land, for which their predecessors paid full price, for a mere trifle of its present value, he said.

Bart's and the Church Commissioners were told to pay two thirds of the other side's legal costs. They were refused leave to appeal to the Lords, but can apply direct. BR and the developer, The London Regeneration Consortium, said they were "very pleased" with the ruling.



Global villager: Pukature, chief of Pukamu village in Brazil, with Anita Roddick, head of The Body Shop, in London yesterday when he discussed selling the company Brazil nut oil under its Trade Not Aid scheme

Raid aims to halt fake Ford car parts

By KEVIN EASON
MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

INVESTIGATORS believe they have put an end to a counterfeiting ring trying to flood Britain with fake spare parts for the seven million Ford cars in the country. Ford last night warned drivers to beware of fake components that could prove dangerous.

Trading standards officers say they uncovered an operation to ship bogus parts made in Turkey, Brazil and Argentina to shops and distributors in Britain. They included brake, steering and electrical parts.

Ford said: "Our best advice is to buy only Ford-approved parts from franchised dealers or through proper distributors. With components involved in areas like brakes and suspension, motorists should not take a risk buying cheap components."

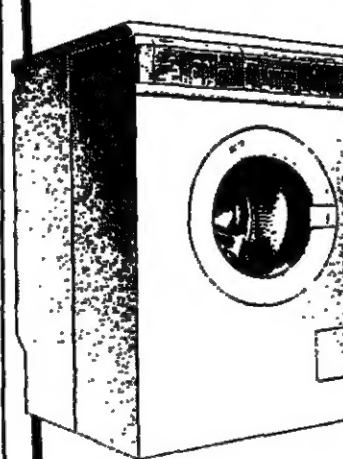
Trading officials and Ford representatives raided premises in Haringey, north London. Police are investigating.

Motoring, L&T section, page 7

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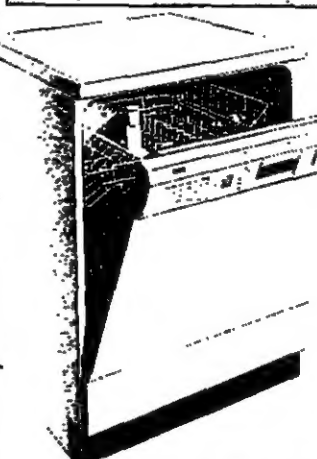
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'Sleeping' JPs agree to retrial

A bench of magistrates dismissed themselves from a trial yesterday after barristers for the defence claimed that two of them had fallen asleep, one in the morning and afternoon, and another in the afternoon. The Lord Chancellor has ordered an investigation.

David Boswell, presiding magistrate, and his colleagues Pamela Kings and Terence Dunn, stepped down at Hull magistrates court. John Astbury, clerk to the justices, denied that two magistrates had fallen asleep but said they had agreed to a retrial because "justice had to be seen to be done".

Paul Williams, aged 28, and his brother Shaun, aged 24, both of Hull, who had denied public order offences, were granted conditional bail. The retrial will take place on April 23.

Killer, 70, jailed

A man aged 70 was given two life sentences at the Old Bailey yesterday. Zdzislaw Kolek was found guilty of the manslaughter with diminished responsibility of his wife Marguerite, aged 70, and of the attempted murder of his stepson, Anthony Pollock, aged 51, who had tried to save his mother.

Appeal fails

Danny Morrison, former Sinn Fein publicity director, lost an appeal against conviction and eight-year jail sentence for aiding and abetting the false imprisonment of an RUC informer.

Siege gun heralds war show

By ALISON ROBERTS

A SHOT from a 17th century saker siege gun today will herald the opening of the English Civil War exhibition, the first touring display of arms and armour organised by the Royal Armouries based at the Tower of London.

The exhibition, sponsored by The Times, will open to the public tomorrow in Hull, where it will run until May 31. In late April 1642, Charles I was refused entry to the city and access to its arsenal for use against the Parliamentarians. A letter to Charles I from Sir John Hotham, who shut the king out, is on display outside the Town Docks museum in Hull.

The exhibition, which is travelling to four other key civil war sites, aims to show how the troops on both sides fought, and to dispel misconceptions about their arms and armour. It promises to be an exciting and educational part of the 350th anniversary celebrations.

The ornate armour worn by Charles I, known as "Gilt Charlie", will be on show. Other prize pieces from the Royal Armouries' collection include 18th pikes, described by the 17th century Irish magistrate Roger Boyle, first Earl of Orrery, as "sharp to enter, and when entered, broad to wound with".

Tomorrow's Times will include a 12 page supplement on the outbreak and impact of the civil war.

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The Economist

British Psychological Society

Truth drug hastens Alzheimer cures

By PAUL WILKINSON

THE truth drug scopolamine, much loved by thriller writers and used for prisoner interrogation during the second world war, is helping to test possible treatments for Alzheimer's disease.

It has the ability to create the classic symptoms of the brain destroying illness. Keith Wesnes told the annual conference of the British Psychological Society at Scarborough yesterday.

Volunteers injected with the drug are given potential treatments for the disease and the effects on the symptoms are analysed.

Scopolamine brings on memory loss and lack of concentration and attention. Dr Wesnes, who works for the privately funded Cognitive drug research company in Reading, said the effects were similar to drunkenness without the euphoria.

The patient returned to normal six hours after the tests without side effects.

Some guinea pigs had taken seven doses without problems, he said. At least one drug, Tacrine, is undergoing clinical trials in the United States as a result of tests carried out with his methods.

Dr Wesnes said the tests cost the drug companies a fraction of the time and expense of setting up trials with Alzheimer sufferers. Such analysis could take up to three years and cost £10 million. His test could be completed in three months much more cheaply.

He first considered the possibility of scopolamine as a PhD student in the early Seventies, but only began working seriously with it four years ago.

The drug is used today by doctors as an anaesthetic premedication and in travel sickness. In larger quantities, as administered by Nazi interrogators in Alistair MacLean's novel *The Guns of Navarone*,

it can result in euphoria and hallucinations.

Dr Wesnes said that the drugs tested so far using his method were not a cure-all for Alzheimer's disease, but would help delay the onset of its worst effects.

Children as young as nine are worrying about their weight, according to research carried out by psychologists at Leeds University. Their findings indicate that two out of three nine-year-olds are unhappy with their size.

Girls want to be thinner, even to the point of serious dieting, and boys are looking to add more meat to their frames, says Andrew Hill, a psychologist with the academic psychiatric unit at the university.

In a paper to be delivered to the psychological society conference today, he says that their research indicates that nine-year-olds are under the same social pressures as adolescents and adults. "It has highlighted the early emergence of the perhaps unrealistic body weight preferences in girls."

It was worrying that girls "on the verge of the greatest physical development of their lives" should wish to take their weight into the opposite direction to nature.

"Body shape discontents and attempts at change have long been recognised during adolescence," he says. "However, recent evidence suggests that these feelings and practices are filtering down to children in the early throes of pubertal development." People are becoming obsessed with weight, he adds.

The psychologists surveyed 213 girls and 166 boys at three West Yorkshire middle schools. On average the girls wanted to be 15 per cent lighter while the boys wanted weight increases of 10 per cent. The boys' desire to be heavier was not for fatness but for a more athletic and muscle build, Dr Hill says.

Children who wished they were thinner said they were significantly more likely to refuse food, to try to eat less at meal times and to eat stimulating foods.

Health, L&T section, pages 5, 6

Squatters threaten buildings trust

By MARCUS BINNEY, ARCHITECTURE CORRESPONDENT

A TRUST which repairs historic buildings is expected to enter voluntary liquidation today. The troubles of the British Historic Buildings Trust began last November, when 18 houses being restored in Hanover Square, Bradford, were illegally occupied.

When the trust took on the 50 derelict houses of Hanover Square, originally rented mainly to wool merchants, many had no roofs, windows or floors. The trust put together a £2.7 million scheme, supported by more than £1.2 million of public money, to restore 33 listed houses.

Seven were sold on completion to former owners and two were bought by a housing association. Squatters occupied the next batch as they reached completion. The trust sought possession through Bradford county court but was unsuccessful.

The houses ready for occupation were priced at up to £51,000. Some of the former occupants said that they believed they would not have to pay more than £30,000. The trust denies that any price was quoted in advance and cites the difficulty of obtaining the zero rating usually allowed by Customs & Excise for large rehabilitation projects, to put them on the same basis as zero-rated new buildings.

A spokeswoman for the accountants Grant Thornton said that it had been instructed by the trust to review its financial position. Grant Thornton had advised that formal insolvency proceedings were necessary and a meeting had been called for today with a view to placing the trust in liquidation.

She said: "The squatters in Hanover Square were largely instrumental in bringing about the trust's current financial situation."

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Lost Fuseli drawings could bring engineer £500,000

By JOHN SHAW

THREE months ago a man walked into Christie's with an album of old drawings. Next week he could be up to £500,000 richer after its contents are sold in London.

The owner, a retired civil engineer living in London, did not know their value or history, according to Andrew Clayton-Payne, one of the firm's experts on watercolours, who examined the drawings at Christie's front counter in St James's. Mr Clayton-Payne found himself leafing through 58 previously unknown studies by Henry Fuseli (1741-1825), an idiosyncratic but influential Swiss artist working in England at the turn of the 19th century.

The album was acquired by the owner and his wife about 15 years ago from a coin dealer whose name they had forgotten. Fuseli's work is in great demand among museums and galleries in Switzerland and in Britain. Mr Clayton-Payne said: "But this album seems to have slipped through the collecting net."

Martin Butlin, the firm's consultant, says in a catalogue foreword to the special sale on April 14 that it contains studies of full length figures and heads including

those of his wife and other young girls "merging with his fetishist preoccupation with fantastically coiffured hair".

If the background to the album is a mystery, the name of the compiler is inscribed carefully inside the front cover. Harriet Jane Moore was granddaughter of one of the painter's closest friends and patrons, Dr James Moore. Dr Moore was the surgeon brother of General Sir John Moore, the soldier who died



Detail of Fuseli study, ink and watercolour

heroically at the Battle of Corunna.

Fuseli seems to have had a soft spot for Harriet, whom he apparently knew from childhood. He gave her drawings and after his death she acquired others from John Knowles, his executor and brother. She also owned the picture "Tianita and Bottom" by Fuseli, which is now in the Tate Gallery. Harriet compiled two other albums of drawings by Fuseli: the Roman Album, now in the British Museum, and a second album containing work by other artists that was sold at Christie's in 1973.

The new discovery has attracted considerable international interest. "We took it to Switzerland and the reaction there was fantastic," Mr Clayton-Payne said. "We've also had a lot of enquiries from people in this country and from America. It is a major find as well as being interesting from an art historical point of view. I think it's the find of a lifetime."

Fuseli's father, a painter, forced him into the ministry to try to give him a secure life, but he had to flee after exposing a corrupt magistrate and finally arrived in London in 1764.

Severn otter revival halted

By CRAIG SETON

POLLUTION is thought to be responsible for halting the recolonisation by otters of rivers in lowland parts of the Midlands.

In recent years, otters have re-established themselves in the upper reaches of the Severn and some tributaries but the advance appears to have stopped in the middle reaches of the river. The National Rivers Authority and members of an otter project are conducting biological tests to discover if chemical pollutants are killing the otters or making them infertile.

Paul Hoban, otter project officer for the area, said it

was suspected that a cocktail of chemicals could be flowing into the Severn from the Stour, which passes through part of the West Midlands conurbation before joining the river at Stourport-on-Severn, Hereford and Worcester. It is thought the toxic material could include polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), which are banned but could be leaching into the water from industrial waste sites.

The otter project is one of ten being co-ordinated nationally by the Royal Society for Nature Conservation to help re-establish otters on rivers where they were

wiped out by pesticides, hunting and the destruction of their habitat. The rivers authority is helping to recreate riverbank habitats.

Mr Hoban said: "Pollution may be entering their food chain and killing them or making them infertile. They appear to be dropping into a black hole."

Biological samples would be taken from cubs, the otters' favourite food. He said it was possible other factors could be at work in preventing the spread of the animal, including lack of habitat and disturbances caused by recreational activities on the river.

Builders sued over 'shoddy' homes

By RACHEL KELLY, PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S fifth biggest house building company, Ideal Homes, is being sued by a group of London Docklands residents who claim that their homes are so shoddily built that it would be cheaper to demolish and rebuild them.

Residents of a new development of 24 homes in Beckton, east London, say that construction faults on their £120,000 homes in Tollgate Mews are the latest example of badly built new developments in Docklands.

Tony Smith, chairman of the 40-strong Tollgate Mews residents' association, said: "The main problem is that houses are subsiding. My doorstep is sinking and the drainpipes are coming away from the wall."

"My patio was flat when I put it down. Now it looks like a roller-coaster." He says that similar problems are evident in other developments in the area.

Mr Smith criticised Ideal Homes over its dealings with residents' complaints about the development, which was built between 1985 and 1987. He said: "The company did not keep us informed of the fact that they had served a writ against the sub-contractors who carried out the foundation work."

"If you accept that the



Widening rift: brickwork of one of the houses at Beckton that residents say are shoddily built

problems are in the foundations, which we believe is the case, the only solution is to knock the houses down and start again. To repair the foundations would result in so much inconvenience that we would probably have to move out."

The residents' solicitor, Ian MacPherson of Nabarro Nathanson, said that Ideal Homes had been aware of the movement in the houses, which it had monitored, but that the company had refused to release details of its studies. Ideal Homes said it had failed to tell residents that it had issued proceedings against Westpile Ltd, the

sub-contractor that laid the concrete foundations in which the trouble appears to have started.

A spokesman for Ideal Homes, a subsidiary of Trafalgar House, said that the company was making a thorough investigation into the matter. "There is very little else I can say."

The residents lodged a writ against the company in the High Court on March 16. The writ says that 24 homes have suffered from structural movement, settlement and water penetration. One gable wall collapsed two years ago because, it is alleged, of a lack of wall ties.

In their writ, the residents also allege that the central heating is inadequate and that the floors creak. Mr Smith said: "It's quite impossible to creep around upstairs without waking everyone up."

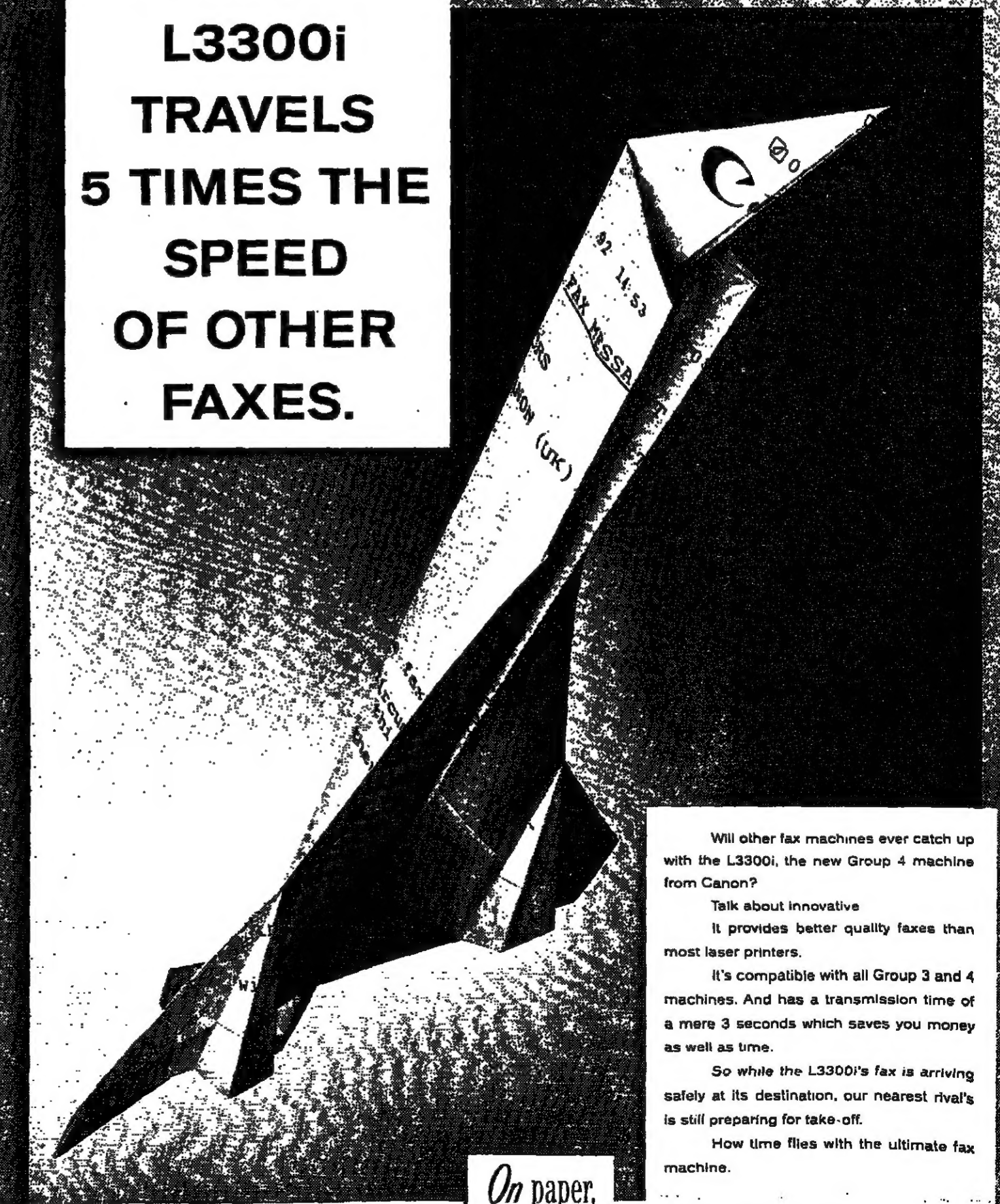
The residents say that Ideal Homes was negligent in failing to make the homes fit for habitation and failing to meet the requirements of the National House Building Council. They allege that the homes were not properly waterproofed at roof level, allowing water to leak in during last year's heavy snow fall. They are funding the legal action themselves and

have so far spent more than £20,000.

Mr MacPherson said: "This obviously affects the lives of ordinary people who can't move until this case is resolved. They are very worried about the future of their homes. We have therefore asked for the trial to be expedited, but even so, it will take at least 12 months."

He added: "The residents are also concerned about the safety of some of the structural features of the development. One wall, for example, which is cracked, is near a public alley way and could collapse, hurting a passer-by."

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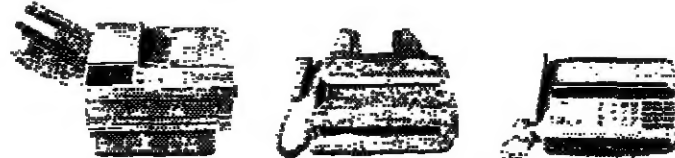
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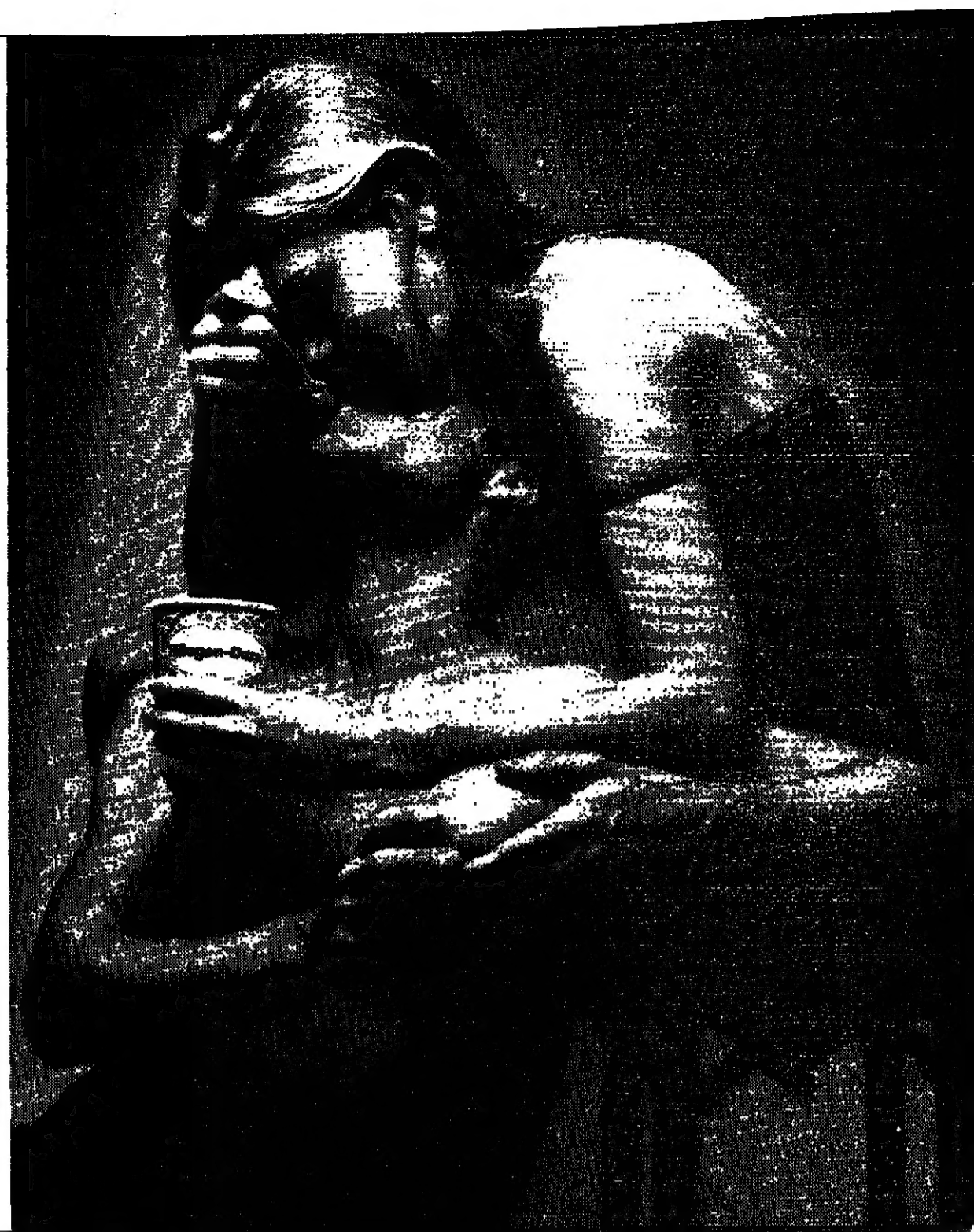
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Police chiefs back plan for bigger crime squads

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

CHIEF constables have endorsed plans to reorganise the regional crime squad system in England and Wales to create a new network of five supersquads. They would cover the same geographical areas as the local offices of the new national criminal intelligence service, which came into operation last week.

The regional crime squads cover all big crime investigations including armed robbery, drug trafficking and serious fraud. They were set up more than 20 years ago to deal with the phenomenon of the travelling criminal using the motorway network to commit crime across the country. In recent years their

brief has widened to include kidnapping and extortion investigations.

Under the new plan the present nine squads, which straddle force boundaries, would be reduced to five. One would cover the whole of the South-East from the Wash to the Channel and west as far as Dorset. Another would include the whole of the South-West and Wales up to the edge of North Wales. A third squad would cover the south Midlands, a fourth the North-West and north Wales and a fifth the northern Midlands and the North-East.

Police planners hope that the new scheme will end almost two years of squabbling. Disagreements between forces and police authorities from different areas led Home Office officials to organise a conference in London last September to try to find common ground. The conference was held in private as police commanders and councillors argued over the proposals.

Other plans have been criticised because Welsh chief constables have argued that one squad should cover much of Wales. In the South-East, local authorities were worried that too many resources would be drawn into London and that they would be paying for investigations that did not concern their areas.

No extra staff are likely to be recruited to the squads, which would have a total manpower of 1,300 officers drawn on secondment from forces for a period of years. Under the plan, four of the regions would be run by a detective chief superintendent and the South-East would be under the control of an assistant chief constable or its London equivalent.

Children catch the pet bug

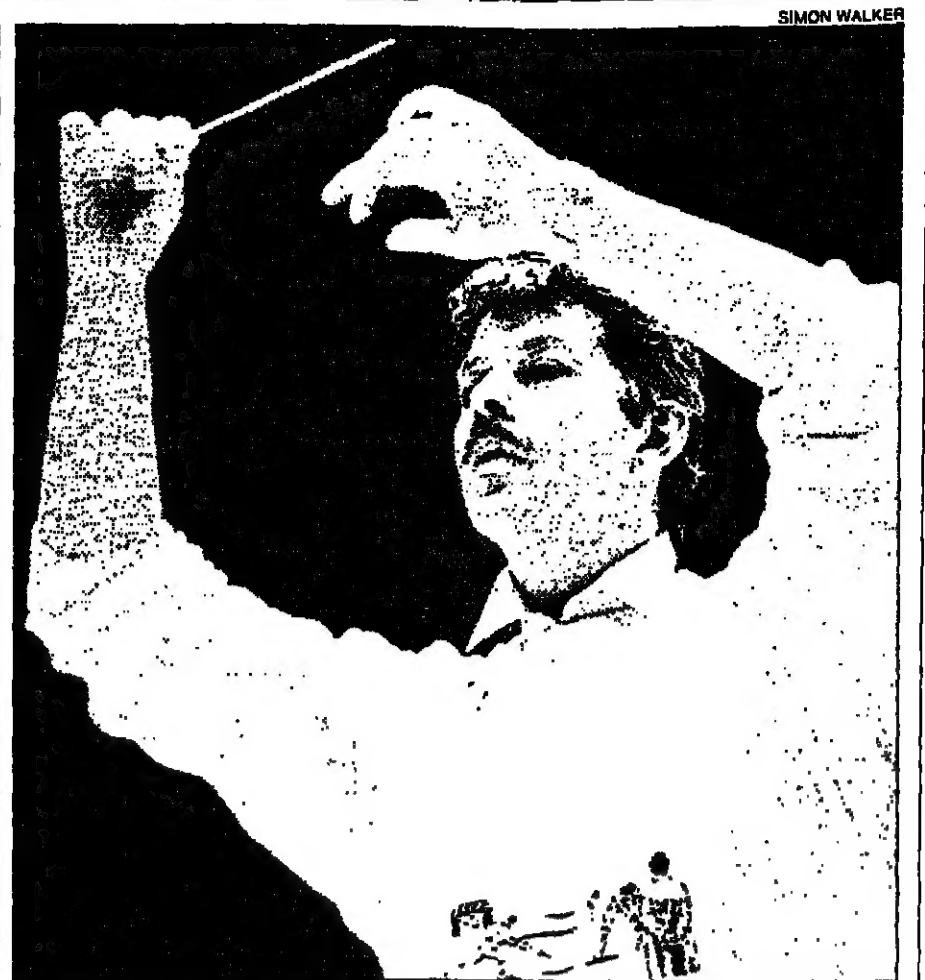
By CRAIG SETON

ANOREXIC millipedes, lethargic praying mantis and off-colour spiders are becoming more common as people choose exotic invertebrates as pets.

The British Small Animal Veterinary Association says that its 3,300 members are increasingly being asked to treat pet insects that include butterflies, stick insects, cockroaches, tree crabs and crayfish. Sick worms, sea anemones, snails and spiders are also regular visitors to vets' surgeries.

The association discussed the responsible ownership of invertebrates at its annual congress in Birmingham. Mary Brancher, president of the Veterinary Invertebrate Society, said one possible reason for the growth in insect ownership was because children found them more interesting than cats or dogs. While dogs and cats needed boarding during holidays, families could take their pet insect with them or ask a neighbour to check their container temperature.

Miss Brancher, a retired vet, added: "They will allow a person who normally looks after them to do things like picking them up that a stranger could not. You do get a rapport and it is more exciting to get a rapport with an invertebrate."



Rehearsal time: Graham Jackson, left, and Ian Hughes rehearsing the Young Musicians' Symphony Orchestra for the finals of the Donatella Flick conducting competition at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, on Wednesday and last night. The competition is funded by a Swiss-based charitable organisation

Traffic flow study

Analyst favours urban road tax

By MICHAEL DYNES, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

A TAX levied on private motorists for using scarce road space in congested urban areas would reduce transport costs for all road users, including motorists paying the new tax, according to a leading traffic analyst.

Some motorists would be forced off the roads by the tax but average speeds for those remaining would increase significantly, according to research by Martin Mogridge. Public transport would also become more efficient.

Dr Mogridge, senior researcher in the transport studies group at University College London, said that because road space in con-

gested cities was free, road users made more use of it than they would were they charged for doing so. If motorists had to pay user charges, marginal road use would be reduced or eliminated, resulting in a more efficient use of road space.

Motorists who continued to drive would benefit from reduced fuel consumption and travelling times while public transport would provide a much better service.

Traffic engineers had traditionally been able to increase the efficiency of the road system by introducing innovative traffic management techniques such as urban

clearways, one-way systems, no right turns and phased traffic lights, effectively increasing the number of vehicles with which the road system could cope. However, increased vehicle numbers, growing hostility towards road building in urban areas, and the limited scope for squeezing additional capacity out of roads would lead to motorists being compelled to accept the introduction of new road taxes or road pricing, he said.

Traffic management techniques had also increased the number of vehicles involved in traffic jams while increasing the dangers of a series of

traffic jams joining up and reducing large urban areas, such as central London, to a state of gridlock.

"As efficiency increases so the redundancy is removed from the road system," he said. "At the limit there is no redundancy. If anything goes wrong there is no capacity left for the road to absorb traffic which needs to be diverted around the jam."

Dr Mogridge said that increasing the capacity of central London roads had not improved average traffic speeds. Increased road capacity released suppressed demand for car travel, reducing demand for public transport.

Walkers fight to save high points

By RONALD FAUX

NATIONAL park wardens in the Lake District are campaigning to save many of the concrete pillars used by Ordnance Survey map makers to mark the area's summits.

Space satellites have made redundant many of the estimated 6,000 trig pillars in Britain but the voluntary wardens hope to preserve up to 100 of them in the Lake District as historic monuments or as cairns to help fell walkers to navigate in bad weather.

The OS needs to retain only about 330 of the 6,130 trig points but Derek Lyon, chairman of the Lake District wardens, believes that some should be given listed status because of their significance

in the landscape. Others could be "adopted" and maintained by volunteers.

"They are extremely valuable, particularly on undulating fells that lack any major features. In mist or bad weather it is highly reassuring to come upon a trig point that tells you precisely where you are," Mr Lyon said.

Some are built of stone with pictorial guides pointing to the surrounding summits. Most are simple concrete plinths that require maintenance to protect them from wind and frost. "Hill walkers are very fond of them and are very willing to help keep them in good condition," Mr Lyon said.

Trig pillars have saved lives and are held in high esteem by ramblers. A survey of the Lake District pillars will continue throughout the summer and already the Ordnance Survey has received hundreds of letters from people hoping to adopt a trig point.

"People hold very strong memories of hilltops, either for romantic reasons or for some particular association. Some trig pillars are aesthetically pleasing, strong features on the landscape," Mr Lyon said. But it is as navigational marks that they are most highly prized. The pillar marking Scafell Pike in the Lake District tells mist-bound wanderers that they are standing at 977m on England's highest summit.

Islanders take to the sea against hospital downgrading

FIVE HUNDRED people from some of the most far-flung islands in Britain are to embark on a 100-mile journey by land and sea this weekend to protest at the downgrading of their local hospital.

The protesters, who will be led by Canon John Angus Galbraith of St Peter's Roman Catholic church on South Uist, have spent £6,000 to charter the Hebridean Isle, the ship that will carry them from the North Uist port of Lochmaddy to Stornoway on Lewis.

Once the islanders arrive on Lewis they are expected to march on the island's health board headquarters

where they will demand that acute surgery facilities at Daliburgh hospital on South Uist, suspended for more than two years, be restored. Daliburgh hospital serves about 8,000 people on the islands that include North and South Uist, Benbecula, Barra, Eriskay and Vatersay. Patients needing surgery at present have to be flown to Stornoway, Inverness or Glasgow.

The Western Isles health board has been told by the Advisory Committee on Medical Establishments that the acute surgical workload at Daliburgh was not enough to justify the retention of a consultant sur-

A Roman Catholic canon is leading a maritime protest by Hebridean families, reports Kerry Gill

geon. The committee said that about 100 acute operations a year would be the amount necessary to retain a surgeon. Most recent figures show that fewer than 20 acute operations a year were carried out at Daliburgh.

Canon Galbraith, chairman of the Daliburgh action group, said:

"This goes back to 1989 when acute surgical facilities were suspended by the health board without consulting the people. The board opted for the hospital being served by GPs with appropriate skills but virtually everybody wants the suspended service restored. We decided the only way to make our protest was to take it to Stornoway and that meant chartering a ship."

He said the island's geography was at the centre of the problem. "It can be very severe weather in winter time. There are very bad storms and the islands can be cut off quite easily," Canon Galbraith said. The

protesters have the backing of Frances Macfarlane, the Scottish National party candidate, and Sam Galbraith, Labour's Scottish health spokesman, has promised to reinstate surgical services at Daliburgh if Labour wins the election.

The largely Roman Catholic southern islands have always been wary of the powerful Protestant north, which includes Lewis and Harris. Stornoway is the administrative capital. Since they are paying for the ship charter, the protesters said they would also hand in a note to Western Isles' council complaining about its neglect of the south.

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'Profession for rich' fears

Shortages of grants force law students to find college fees

BY FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

GROWING numbers of students are having to pay for their own pockets for the Law Society's final course at the College of Law, the largest organisation for training solicitors in England and Wales, because they cannot obtain grants, a survey has found.

As a result, the college says, the solicitors' profession is in danger of becoming a profession for the children of the rich only. Student contributions now account for 46 per cent of total fees received, compared with 28 per cent two years ago, the survey of fees of 11,000 students found.

The percentage of total fees — on average £3,000 for the one-year course — provided

by local education authorities has dropped from 64 per cent two years ago to about 35 per cent. The number of local education authorities that are providing grants to cover the whole fee has dropped from 75 out of the 116 in 1988-9 to 53 for the academic year 1991-2.

The proportion of total student fees paid for by sponsorship by solicitors' firms has more than doubled over the past three years from seven to 17 per cent. That figure, the college says, may be an underestimate because, in some cases, the money is paid via the students.

Richard Holbrook, chairman of the college's board of management, said: "Concern at the number of students

who drop out before their course begins led us to look at the degree of help being provided by local education authorities.

"These figures show that while many local education authorities are doing what they can, they are using their powers under the discretionary grant regulations to cut down their support for law students. I fear the solicitors' profession is as a result of this in danger of becoming a profession for rich people's children only."

Overwhelming public support for the duty solicitor scheme that covers courts and police stations, and the right of a person who is charged with a criminal offence to legal advice, is shown in a Gallup poll published this week.

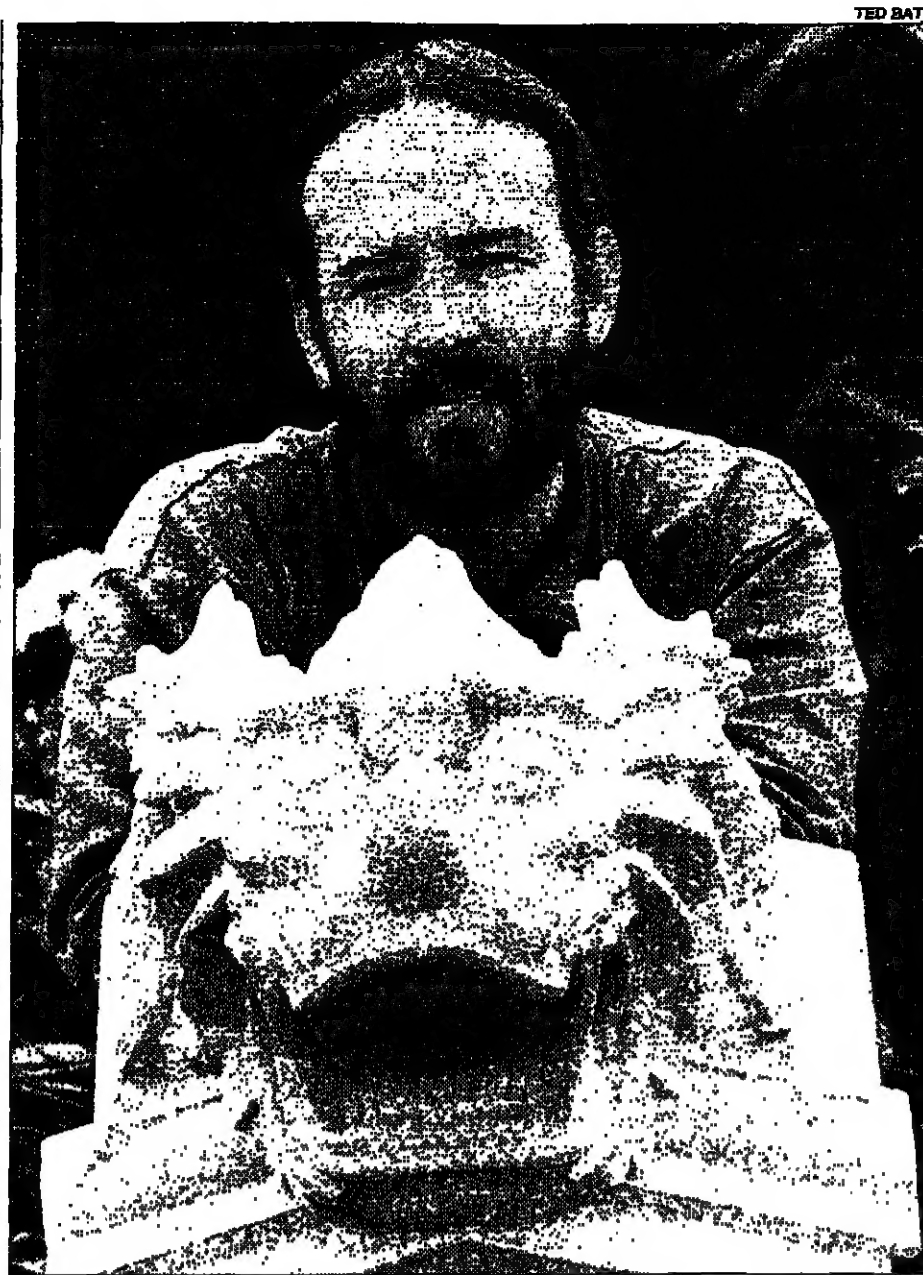
The poll, carried out for the Law Society between March 26 and 31, shows that 97 per cent of people questioned feel that anyone who is taken to a police station and charged with a criminal offence should have automatic access to a solicitor.

The poll also found that 95 per cent agreed that people who cannot afford to pay for their own defence if taken to court should get free legal representation.

The findings were based on a random sample of 1,015 people nationwide. The Law Society is campaigning for measures to ensure that an adequate supply of solicitors is available to give advice and help to all charged with criminal offences.

It says that government proposals for a system of fixed fees in magistrates' courts in place of hourly rates will force large-scale withdrawals of solicitors from the duty solicitor schemes, which are already down on the numbers who took part a few years ago.

Solicitors have already indicated that they will withdraw from the schemes in at least six areas of the country, and have pulled out from duty schemes at police stations as a protest against government plans.



Looking ahead: Peter Smith with one of seven gargoyles he has carved to replace the 450-year-old originals at Lacock Abbey, Wiltshire. The copies will be stored until the originals, which are badly eroded, have to be taken down

Solvent abuse kills record number of young people

BY ALISON ROBERTS

THERE was a record number of deaths involving solvent abuse in 1990 and more than 70 per cent of those who died were under 20, according to a report by St George's hospital medical school in London.

During that year, 149 people died after inhaling gas fumes, aerosols, glue fumes or other volatile substances. There was a marked increase in the number of deaths linked to inhaling the contents of fire extinguishers. In

1989, there were 113 deaths, which was lower than previous years. Since 1983, when figures were first collected, 1,113 people have died.

Of those who died in 1990, 87 per cent were male and 30.9 per cent were first-time solvent abusers. In almost half of cases the substance was used in a public place such as a park, shopping centre or street.

The figures show that the problem is worsening and the very young are particularly at risk. There was a big increase in the death rate for males aged 15-19. Sixteen-year-olds of both sexes accounted for 28 per cent of deaths.

Aneez Esmail, lecturer in public health medicine at St George's, said previous re-

search showed that 3.5 to 10 per cent of secondary school children had experimented with volatile substances.

"That is lower than the figures for experimentation with cannabis or alcohol but the difference is that those things won't kill you," he said. "You can get locked up for smoking cannabis but it is still not illegal to sniff volatile substances. People are just beginning to realise now that it is an important problem."

The health department has recently sponsored a £1.4 million advertising campaign to alert parents to the dangers.

Mr Esmail said that the large increase in numbers in the North could be linked to deprivation and the recession.

Castle is viewed as town's saviour

BY CRAIG SETON

TRADERS in Warwick are turning to the town's castle, which attracts more than 600,000 visitors a year, to help to reverse a slump in business that has seen the closure of many shops and hotels.

The traders, worried that Warwick is being portrayed as a ghost town after the closure of more than 30 shops, two restaurants and two hotels, are hoping to encourage more castle visitors to leave its ancient walls and regard the town itself as a tourist centre.

A gateway has been created in the castle's perimeter wall and signs are to be set up to lead visitors on a town trail, taking in museums, the Lord Leycester hospital, St Mary's church and the market square. Plans are being discussed for a pedestrian-only scheme and a Sunday market for specialist traders.

The traders have formed a new organisation, Renew, standing for Regeneration. David Way, a shop owner and one of its members, said that colleagues were worried that without a revival scheme parts of the town would remain an eyesore. They believe that the success of cities including York and Bath as thriving tourist centres indicate what Warwick could achieve.

The grade II listed former Woolpack hotel, overlooking Warwick market square, has been boarded up for several years after a proposed retail project for the site was stopped by the property slump. "That sort of thing does not look good," Mr Way said. "We are looking at the idea of an overall strategy for the town and perhaps the appointment of a town manager. Our vision is of Warwick as a secondary shopping centre with specialist shops of character for visitors and local people." He said that there was talk of combining the town's annual classical and folk festivals into a bigger, single event.

Some traders believe that the effort to revive Warwick is drawing attention to negative aspects of the town. One said that it was being unfairly painted as a dying town, whereas many shops were doing good business. Keith Wright, vice-chairman of Warwick Chamber of Trade and Commerce, said: "We have got to convince tourists that the castle is not the only attraction in Warwick."

Falklands veteran campaigns for youth

The former Welsh Guardsman Simon Weston, who was badly burned in the Falklands war, has launched a £250,000 appeal to help inner city teenagers from his native South Wales to overcome a lack of opportunities.

The appeal is for the South Wales branch of the Weston Spirit charity, which began in Liverpool in 1987 and has an office in Cardiff. "If we can raise the £250,000 it will be a great boost for the work of Weston Spirit here in South Wales," Mr Weston said.

"I hope that we have found a way for young people to feel a part of the community. We have helped many of them face the future with a fresh and positive outlook."

Tony Hind, chief executive of the charity, said: "We have developed a track record for working with inner city disadvantaged youth. Our aim is to make them step out of their conditioning, challenge assumptions about their capabilities and encourage them to make informed choices that they may become responsible citizens."

More than 500 young people from Liverpool, Newcastle and Cardiff have taken part in projects organised by the charity including outdoor pursuits around the world and residential courses in Britain.

Chicken claim 'a turkey'

Claims that chicken is Britain's favourite meat have been challenged by the Meat and Livestock Commission. The British Chicken Information Service says that chicken dominated the retail meat market in 1991 for the fourth consecutive year.

Shoppers were said to have bought 394,000 tonnes of chicken, 323,000 tonnes of beef, 192,000 tonnes of pork and 182,000 tonnes of lamb. The commission said that the figures did not take into account huge sales of burgers, sausages, bacon and ham.

Ship disquiet

The International Red Cross has questioned Britain's use of fighting hospital ships, such as the Royal Fleet Auxiliary Argus, during the Gulf war. Argus was not designated a neutral hospital ship and retained a number of defensive weapon systems. Antoine Bouvier, of the legal division of the International Red Cross, said that neutral hospital ships had proved their worth over the years and had saved countless lives.

Law and order

A team of British lawyers is in Albania helping the newly-elected democratic leaders of the former communist bastion to come in from the cold. The delegation, funded by the government and the Law Society, is helping the Albanian authorities in the capital Tirana to draft electoral law, economic regulations and other legislation. The lawyers are also holding a workshop on how to run a legal practice.

Home shortage

Homelessness has reached the Falklands Islands, where a population boom has led to an acute housing shortage, forcing people to live in converted portable cabins left behind by the army after the Falklands war. Others live in converted lorry containers. Last month the YMCA opened a 20-bed hostel in Stanley, the capital, a purpose-built building intended for fishermen.

Cheap snaps

Camera prices and the cost of developing films are cheaper in Britain than almost anywhere else in Europe. Only Germans get a better deal when buying equipment, according to *Amateur Photographer* magazine.

Police say cells are filling up

BY STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

CHIEF constables have called on the Home Office to help to stem the rising number of prisoners held in police cells. At the end of last week the total had reached 1,817.

John Burrow, chief constable of Essex and vice-president of the Association of Chief Police Officers, said that the figures dropped last year after police representations but they had now climbed again. Police feared that soon forces would not be able to cope. The worst region is the North-West where damage at Strangeways prison, Manchester, has reduced cell space.

The Home Office said that apart from Strangeways, an additional 3,000 remand prisoners had come unexpectedly into the prison system. Space was being lost because extra space would become available this month when a young offenders' institution reopened.



High-rise flap: Oscar exits 18ft up via a standard cat flap onto the stepped, floodlit, carpet-lined ramp designed by its owner Richard Lohr at their home in Shepherd's Bush, west London. The fixings will not take cat burglars or ambitious dogs

Vicars are given a telling sermon

BY PAUL WILKINSON

HAVE you heard the one about the vicar, the students and Taffy the storyteller? If you are sitting comfortably I shall begin.

The story so far: David ("Taffy") to his listeners Thomas is a full-time raconteur who wanders the North Country from his Lakeland home enlivening pub hearthstones and village halls with his chronicles of bygone days. Now he has been asked to give trainee churchmen tips on spinning a yarn in the hope that his expertise will make their sermons a little more interesting.

The idea came from Canon Trevor Pitt of St John's College in Durham, which trains clergy for the Church of England, United Reformed Church and the Methodists. Canon Pitt first heard Taffy talking at a supper club. "I asked him to come along and help with

the the ordination course at the college. Most people have a jaundiced idea of sermons as boring and not worth listening to, but that is not the case and, with Taffy's help, we can make sure the sermons grab everyone's attention. Story telling is at the heart of preaching and the telling of stories is what the Bible is about."

Mr Thomas, aged 41, said: "I will be giving them a few tips on presenting stories and encouraging audience participation. They may find it appropriate to tell stories from the pulpit using props and the odd costume. I hope that my advice will make things more interesting for the congregation."

His stories have been told in church before. One that he told to the daughter of a lay preacher was reproduced the following Sunday. "I don't mind when people retell my stories, just so long as they bring enjoyment," Mr

Thomas said. "I have a few ideas to help the lectures along. I will be asking them to bring a story and then give a few hints on how to get it across."

Mr Thomas started his working life as a drama teacher, before working as an entertainer with a travelling theatre group. His £10,000 a year salary is paid from the arts budget of the county councils of Cumbria, Durham and Northumberland, partly as a way of living up some of the more remote areas and partly as a tourist attraction.

He travels on a tricycle bearing the slogan "Stop Me and Hear One". He has 200 tales committed to memory. Most are local folk tales or stories from history but some have a modern twist including the threat to the rainforest. His lectures at the Durham college, if successful, could be repeated. Possibly a tale of a prophet finding honour in his own land?

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Falklands veteran campaigns for youth

The former man Simon... badly burned... Falklands... veteran... campaigns for youth...

Chicken claim 'a turkey'

Chicken claim 'a turkey'... the... turkey...

Ship disquiet

Ship disquiet... the... ship...

Law and order

Law and order... the... law...

Home shortage

Home shortage... the... home...

Cheap snags

Cheap snags... the... cheap...

sermon

sermon... the... sermon...

Luxury goods at heart of swindle

French police foil Japanese gangsters

FROM PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS

A BIG money-laundering operation, by top figures in Japan's notorious yakuza gangs of organised criminals, has been foiled by French police investigating phenomenal sales of Louis Vuitton leather goods and Hermès scarves.

The arrest last week of about a hundred people, almost all of Asian origin, appears to have cracked an operation that was recycling tens of millions of dollars of "dirty money" from drugs, prostitution and protection racketeering in Japan.

Like most successful scams, the "Vuitton connection" was an essentially simple affair, based on the purchase and resale of the French luxury goods for which there is an inexhaustible market in Japan. It involved yakuza illicit funds to buy up vast quantities of top-quality goods which were then recycled back into Tokyo department stores at irresistible prices.

Over the past three years, French police sources suggest, upwards of 400 million francs (£40 million) has been pumped through a network recruited mainly among the Vietnamese and Cambodian communities in Paris.

The tip that first put investigators on the track of the operation was the regular appearance of several hundred people of apparently modest origin buying up Vuitton and Hermès products as if there was no tomorrow, every last one paying with crisp new 500-franc notes bearing consecutive serial numbers.

After close surveillance, the police decided to raid an

apartment near the Place de la Madeleine, conveniently located for the main luxury stores in Paris. They discovered about 2,500 items from the Vuitton and Hermès catalogues, worth an estimated 7 million francs and about 2.5 million francs in hard cash in, what else, brand new 500-franc notes.

It subsequently emerged that the gang responsible had recruited its shoppers through small advertisements in newspapers circulating in the 13th arrondissement, the Parisian "Chinatown". A small army of buyers would report for duty every morning to receive working funds, then march back, buckling under the weight of shopping bags, to hand over the goods in return for what *Le Figaro* reported was "a slim envelope" containing their daily retainer.

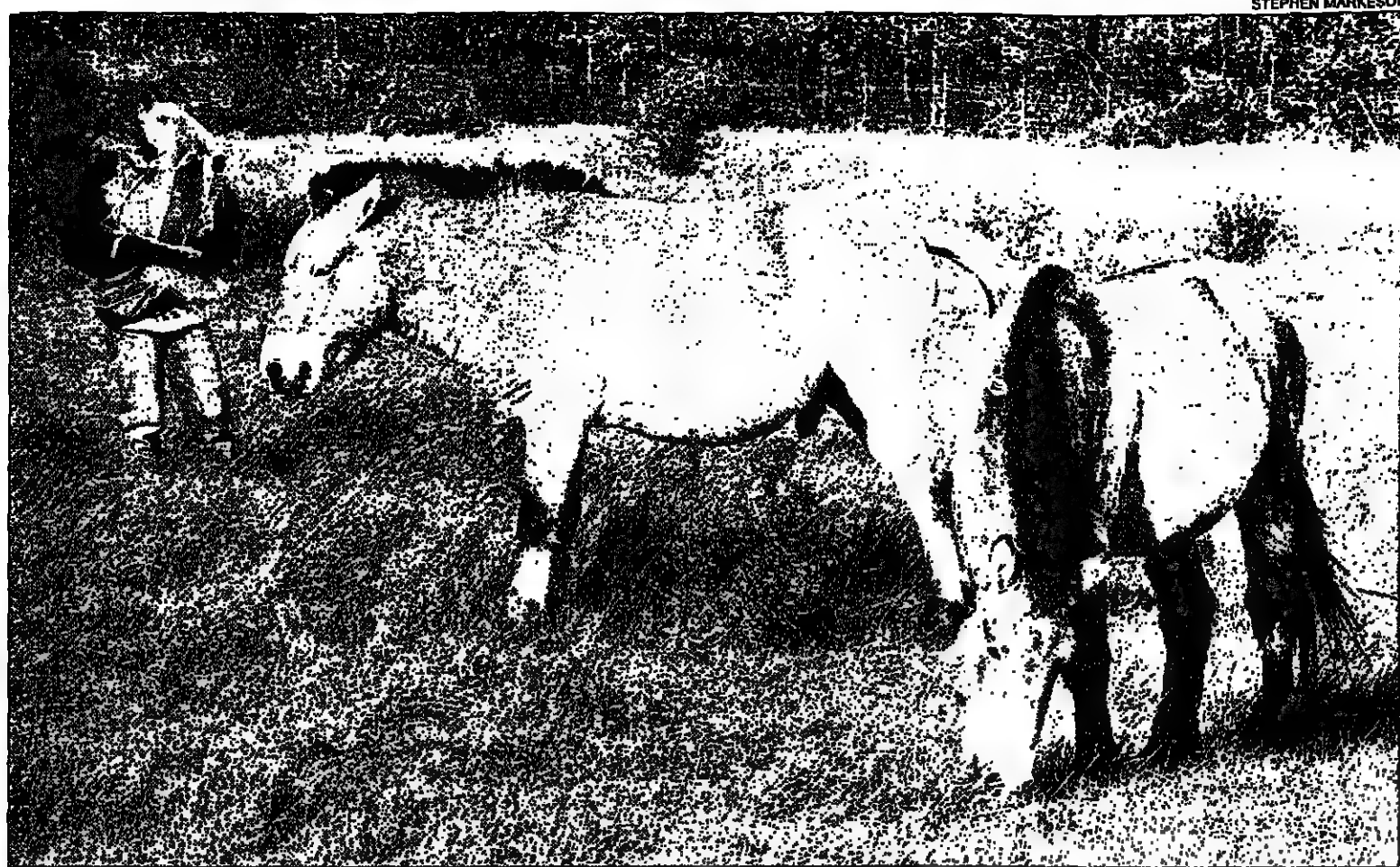
As the police swooped, bank accounts containing more than 15 million francs were frozen by official order: at the same time, a French Customs official working at Charles de Gaulle airport was arrested on charges of having provided false stamps and documents allowing the yakuza to shift their haul back to Japan. According to reports in the French press, Joël Dumont ensured that not a franc in duty was paid as container-loads of elegant handbags and designer scarves were shipped out.

News of this luxury ring comes at a time when the French, the Parisians above all, are decidedly sensitive about the "invasion" of well-

heeled Japanese tourists waving their wallets in every smart shop in town. The vast majority are legitimate tourists, but as one police investigator noted, where better to "wash" dirty money without attracting unwelcome attention?

As *Le Figaro* sees it, "la Mafia Japonaise" is now poised to infiltrate France, where the existence of a substantial Asian community — mostly non-Japanese, it should be said — provides a convenient base.

A team of Parisian gendarmes is now standing by to fly to Tokyo for discussions with their opposite numbers. They are said to have been somewhat discouraged by the equanimity which the principal suspects arrested here have displayed during questioning, which apparently reflects the belief that back in Japan, a touch of yakuza influence will fix just about anything.



Mongolia bound: Anne Lebourcier, aged 29, a veterinary surgeon from Nantes, western France, with two Przewalski horses in a field at Goudplaat in Zeeland, southwest Holland. The Przewalski, ancestor of the modern animal and the last

truly wild horse, has been rescued from extinction by a group of enthusiasts in Holland. Native to Mongolia, the horse disappeared from the wild 25 years ago, but a controlled breeding programme, using stock from animal reserves and a

zoo, has saved the breed. The project, supported by the World Wildlife Fund for Nature, is so successful that the Dutch intend soon to begin reintroducing the animal to Mongolia. Mlle Lebourcier has been compiling a video record of

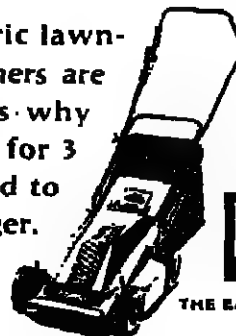
the group of stallions. She has studied the behaviour and relationship of each horse to enable her to choose those most suited to be the first to return in May to Hustain Nuruz, where 100,000 acres have been set aside by the government.

SOME OTHER LAWNMOWERS EXPIRE BEFORE OUR GUARANTEE DOES.



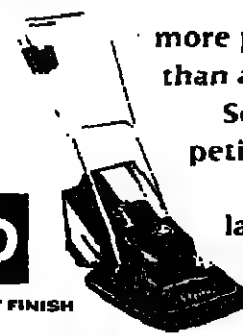
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Carnogursky: even his party is split

Where breaking up is hard to do

In Czechoslovakia, men are pulling asunder what history put together. Roger Boyes reports from Bratislava on the chances of a civilised divorce

MANY of the fragile national marriages put together in the early 20th century are under strain and some, like Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union, are coming to a close. It is Czechoslovakia, however, that presents the most interesting spectacle.

There both partners, the Czechs and Slovaks, are pulling apart, approaching the very edge of divorce and then drawing back. Should Czechoslovakia be saved?

The excitable Jozef Prokes, leader of the Slovak National Party, predicts the federation will fall apart within a month of elections in June and, at the very latest, Slovakia will be an independent state by the end of the year. That outcome rather depends on the balance of power in Slovakia after the elections.

At the moment political parties favouring divorce or legal separation are dominating the opinion polls.



They are led by the powerful Movement for a Democratic Slovakia, the populist party led by bull-necked politician Vladimir Meciar. The Slovak National party, though relatively small, has set the agenda for the other parties: almost everybody, even the former communists, reject the present shape of Czechoslovakia.

Only Jan Carnogursky, the Christian Democratic prime minister, wants to maintain the relationship, albeit as an open marriage.

Even his party has split on the issue and he stands little chance against Mr Meciar.

This quirky, charismatic man commands more than 30 per cent support in Slovakia, well ahead of the rest of the field. He has been accused of collaborating with the communist secret police, but he shrugged off the charges made by the Slovak parliament.

The marriage between Czechs and Slovaks in 1918 was based more on fear than on love. The Slovaks regarded the joint Czechoslovak state as a useful escape from Hungarian domination; the Slovaks remembered how they were almost swallowed up under the Magyars, how they lost Slovak schools, how Slovak could only be used as a teaching language during religious lessons.

Yet the Czechs, after 1918, did not regard the Slovaks as equal partners. Czech teachers, civil servants and judges moved quickly into rural and under-populated Slovakia. They edged Slovaks out of careers in the army, diplomacy and civil administration. After the war, under the communists, the balance was redressed somewhat.

The Slovaks were given their own schools and courts and, within the tight contours of the Communist party, Slovaks started to make an impact on federal politics. All this has now turned against the Slovaks. The steel foundries, mines and tank factories are heavy polluters and uneconomical.

But there is no such thing as pain-free divorce and the West will have to decide whether to support the continuation of a federal state or acknowledge the right to secede.

Burma purges 'disloyal elements' Lecturers among thousands sacked

FROM ABBY TAN IN RANGOON

BURMA'S military government has sacked 15,000 civil servants in the latest purge of "disloyal elements". Diplomatic observers said they had counted 150 Rangoon university teachers who had lost their jobs in recent months.

Thousands of teachers have been sent to a re-education camp at the Central Institute of Public Services north of Rangoon. A four-week drill course of exercises and lectures that began there in January is said to be modelled on the rural re-education by Red Guards in China in the 1960s.

A senior academic who is a key economic adviser to the

government confirmed the sackings. "The government has handled the students, the politicians and the Buddhist monks," he said. "Now it must address the civil servants who also joined the students' strike." Demonstrations by students, communists and liberals against socialist one-party rule prompted the armed forces to step in, crushing all popular dissent when they imposed martial law in September 1988.

An army presence is evident at big road junctions in Rangoon. "Beware of underground and above ground destructive elements", de-

clared one large billboard, while another, in front of the US embassy gate, said: "Down with minions of colonialism".

The teachers being re-educated are blamed for the behaviour of the students, the adviser said. They were on forced holiday for three years until mid-1991, when schools reopened. The military authorities again shut them down indefinitely last December, when students rallied in the streets in celebration of the winning of the Nobel peace prize by Aung San Suu Kyi, their heroine, in 1991.

The check on civil servants and teachers, that decided their "disloyalty" was a questionnaire. One question asked: "Should someone married to a foreigner be elected head of state? If yes, what will be the situation of the country?" The reference to Daw Suu Kyi, who is married to a British academic, is obvious.

Daw Suu Kyi, who headed the National League for Democracy that spearheaded the demand for free elections, has been under arrest since July 1989 in her house in a Rangoon suburb. The junta said she could go free if she gave up politics, a demand she has refused.

The league won 80 per cent of the 485 seats in the national assembly in the May 1990 elections, but the junta has refused to honour the results. Many of those elected are in prison or in hiding.

Human rights groups say about 2,000 dissidents are in jail. They claim, too, that known political prisoners have been forced to act as porters for the army and made to walk ahead of troops to clear landmines in areas where rebels are fighting the central government.

Diplomatic observers say that General Saw Maung, chairman of the ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council, has promised a new constitution to be drawn up by a national convention, obviously to be hand-picked by the military, but he has not publicly mentioned any timetable. Observers in Rangoon expect the constitution will not be introduced before the expiry of the four-year term for which league candidates were elected, providing a pretext to disqualify them from a convention.

General Saw Maung and other ministers insist that the military has no intention of clinging to power. They point out that they had power in 1958 and 1962 when they took over briefly only to hand it back to civilians once stable security had been achieved.

Since 1988, the junta has abandoned 26 years of socialism which brought Burma to economic ruin. The government in 1987 asked the United Nations to downgrade its status from a developing country to "least developed".

Vietnamese take sombre journey into their past

BY JAMES PRINGLE ON THE SAIGON-HANOI EXPRESS

A FORMER captain in the American-backed South Vietnamese army was at the railway station to see off a relative. He had served a long stint in a communist re-education camp and now lived in limbo. He had no hope of getting a job, nor of emigrating to America through an officially sanctioned departure programme. "No relatives in the US," he said sadly.

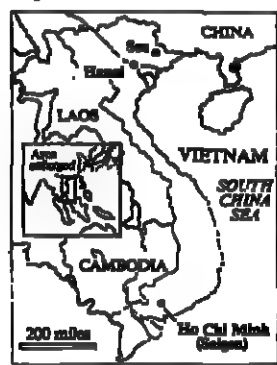
Then the South-North Express pulled out of Saigon station (which it is still called, though the former southern capital has been known as Ho Chi Minh City since 1975) on the 1,076-mile, 49-hour journey through one of communism's last bastions to Hanoi.

In the compartment with me were my guide and two Vietnamese engineers who were working for a Russian-Vietnamese oil venture. None were members of the communist party.

Sleeping on the floor at the end of the carriage was a former anti-aircraft gunner from the Ho Chi Minh trail, now working for a state enterprise. "He is a true communist, and there are not so many like him," said the guide. "He lives on his pittance of a salary and out of principle won't dabble in the free market."

Like the former army officer, he was one of the economic losers in contemporary Vietnam. The ones doing best are entrepreneurs, those working for joint ventures, and many peasants, following the break-up of co-operative farms.

The journey costs £71 and is a tour of old battle-



fields. There is little left of the American military effort, but at Dong Ha, American tanks and artillery pieces lie rusting.

As the carriages rattle at 25mph across the Bong Son plain, once one of the most dangerous areas for Americans, the landscape is peaceful. Peasant girls board in Quang Ngai to sell produce. Not far away is My Lai, scene of the mass

killings by US troops. Peasants still push their ploughs across fields behind oxen, but instead of peasant hats and black pyjamas, they wear baseball caps, T-shirts and shorts.

As we trundle across the Ben Hai river into the north, the country is suddenly different, poorer. 852 bomb craters, usually filled with water, progress alongside the track.

The diesel engine judders to a halt 15 miles from Hanoi. We have hit a young man hurrying to the market to sell tomatoes. He is dead. In less than ten minutes, we are on the way again. After two days and nights, we arrive in Hanoi feeling sombre, like the overcast weather of Vietnam's capital.



Rising generation: Deng Xiaoping, left, the senior leader, maintains his influence through Deng Pufang, his son, who travels abroad as the head of China's welfare fund for the handicapped



China's old guard seeks political immortality through 'princelings'

Ageing revolutionaries are trying to keep their influence by nepotism to the infatuation of ordinary people, Catherine Sampson writes in Peking

IF YOU happened to be flicking through the official Who's Who of China, perusing the pictures of those who hold power, you might be struck by the similar jaw lines of two men named Chen. What the official Who's Who does not tell you is that the Chens are father and son.

Chen Yun, at 86, is the country's arch-conservative economist. Chen Yuan, his son, is vice-governor of the People's Bank of China. The Chens are just one example of the way in which Chinese leaders keep it in the family.

Increasingly elderly and frail, the veteran revolutionaries are bidding to keep their political influence alive through their children, who are known as "princelings". Foreign governments see the "princelings" as conduits to their parents and possible future leaders. There is no identifiable "princeling" clique, but there is considerable potential for them to evolve into an interest group.

A paper submitted to the United States Congress last year identified 57 Chinese in influential political and economic positions who had risen on the coat-tails of their parents. They included Li Peng, the prime minister, and the adopted son of Chou En-lai, the former prime minister.

Deng Xiaoping, the senior leader, aged 87, rarely leaves his private residence but keeps his grip on power with the help of his children. He no longer meets foreign visitors, but his children have become his emissaries. Whenever they travel abroad, the Deng offspring are well-combed. Many Chinese suspect that it was Mr Deng's

children who persuaded him earlier this year to make a rare public trip to southern China to defend his reforms.

Deng Rong, his youngest daughter, is her father's personal assistant and interpreter. In 1990 she went to Tokyo with Yang Li, the daughter of President Yang, and was received by Japanese leaders. The two are also reported to have travelled together to Singapore. Hong Kong and other countries, acting for their fathers who are close allies.

Deng Nan, another daughter, is vice-minister of the science and technology commission. Deng Zhifang, his son, works for the capitalist-style International Trust and Investment Corporation. He has held talks with Kim Il

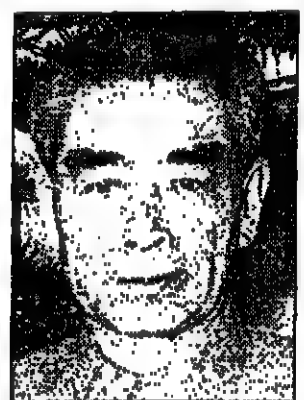
Sung in North Korea. Deng Pufang, a second son, has travelled to Hong Kong and other countries as the head of China's welfare fund for the handicapped. His image is sullied by persistent reports of corruption.

On the rare occasions that Deng Xiaoping surfaces, he does not let just anyone take his photograph. His personal photographer is Yang Shao-ming, the son of Mr Deng's old friend President Yang. The choice of Yang junior is believed to have less to do with his artistic prowess than with security. It is much safer if the hand pointing a camera at you can be trusted not to pull a trigger.

The clans running China have made sure that the guns



Father's footsteps: Li Peng, left, prime minister and son of Chou En-lai, who held the same post



are in the right hands. President Yang, who is in day-to-day control of the army, has chosen Yang Baibing, his younger brother, to head the People's Liberation Army's general political department. He Ping, Deng Xiaoping's son-in-law, is deputy director of that department, which is in charge of China's arms sales.

Three other "princelings", all the sons of veteran revolutionaries, run Polytechnologies, an arms-dealing company. He Ping and Deng Nan are among the seven "princelings" who are tipped to be promoted to the central committee at the Communist party's five-year congress later this year.

The "princelings" have had the sort of upbringing of which the masses could only dream: mansions, servants, cars and special schools. They were the first to be allowed to go to university after the Cultural Revolution. In the past ten years, they have risen quickly through the ranks to positions usually reserved for people decades their senior.

The political and economic privileges enjoyed by the "princelings" infuriate ordinary people. Such nepotism is a feature of traditional feudal Chinese rule, but sits uneasily with the propaganda of the Communist party.

The killing of pro-democracy demonstrators in 1989, hardliners made an effort to quell public resentment by declaring that they would limit severely the activities of the children of officials. The only people affected were the offspring of lower level officials. Not one of the children of top leaders suffered.

Bishops urge church to fight sexism

New York: Sexism is a moral and social evil that the United States Catholic Church should fight, a committee of bishops said in a pastoral letter.

But Sister Phyllis Price of New York said the letter will always fall short if the bishops continue their ban on women priests. "It is the dysfunction of the system in the church that is the problem," she said. (AP)

Buffer agreed

Geneva: A Liberian rebel leader has said here that peacekeeping forces could set up a buffer zone between Liberia and Sierra Leone within 15 days. Charles Taylor, the rebel leader and Amos Sawyer, the president, signed an agreement earlier. (AFP)

President to go

Islamabad: Benon Sevan, the UN mediator, told European ambassadors a transitional Afghan government replacing President Najibullah's should be in place by April 28, sources here said. Dr Najibullah would leave the country. (AFP)

Gallows price

Nicosia: Ayatollah Morteza Moqtadaei, Iran's chief justice, says *dijeh* (blood money) has risen eight-fold. The murder of a Muslim man can now ransom himself from the gallows for 70 million rials (£600,000 at the official rate). (Reuters)

Angola's free-market line is cut off

THE ruling Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) will soon drop all references to socialism in its publications and remove the words "workers' party" from the end of its official title.

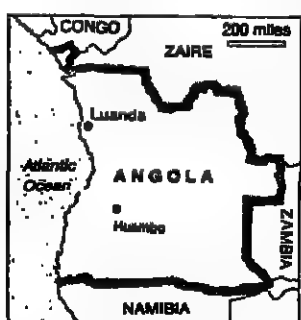
But the message of the free market has yet to get through to Enatel, the state telephone company in Luanda, which uses singularly stalinist methods to persuade people to pay their bills. Enatel does not bother with warning notes and red letters, British Telecom style. In fact they do not send bills at all.

Instead, every now and again, a batch of numbers will get cut off for non-payment of non-bills. Then it is up to the telephone user to go to the company, beg for a bill and beg Enatel to accept payment. One might go years before getting caught out, but Enatel gets you in the end. This week it has been the turn of the embassies.

Already taut, diplomatic tensions caused by ambassadors desperately trying to persuade the opposition Union for the Total Independence of Angola (Unita) and the government not to restart their civil war, have been stretched to breaking point testing both the endurance of their excellencies and their diplomatic skills.

The Belgian, Portuguese, French, Italian and other envoys have been disconnected and ambassadors now have to drive around town delivering messages in person. Beyond coping with Luanda's 100 per cent humidity and

Angolans grasp economic realities better than the central bank, which is confident of low inflation, and the government, confident of re-election, Sam Kiley writes



the tempers of the two sides seeking power in Angola the real test for the ambassadors is how to get the phone reconnected without paying for everyone else. They know from Lusa, the Portuguese news agency, that Enatel will load errant international charges on to the accounts of the rich and foreign, showing a fine regard for the redistribution of wealth and none for customer relations.

To stop this the Portuguese rely on grand letterheads and flamboyant signatures from their ambassadors. The Belgians boast that they have a better technique and have stationed a man at the equivalent of Telecom House eight hours a day for two weeks to lobby on their behalf. Both remain telephonically incommunicado. "It will be some time before we feel the benefits of the changes we have pressed so hard for," said one

ambassador. The efficiency promised by the market has also yet to enter the sacred realm of the pink seafront *de sicle* National Bank of Angola where Soviet-trained economists have been involved in some eccentric money-supply control that will bring nothing but hyperinflation to Angola.

Mandarins in the central bank did not realise, when they promised a one-for-one swap of new for old local currency (the kwanza) in September 1990 but gave only 5 per cent on cash and 8 per cent on bank accounts, that there were more popular ways to squeeze the money supply.

Jose Eduardo dos Santos and his government soon did. With an election due in September, Mr dos Santos promised to return all the money extracted from the povo (the people), as well as to catch up with the ten months of back pay owed to 100,000 civil servants and pay off the 100,000 soldiers being demobilised over the coming weeks by printing tons of money. Mr dos Santos may feel that this earns brownie points with the electorate as it anticipates its first free elections.

While the central bank is confident of a stable currency and low inflation and the government of re-election, the

povo have a better grasp of economic realities. In the past few days they have been queuing round the block to get their cash out of the banks and into secure investments like fridges and hi-fi equipment before inflation erodes their pay packets to nothing.

All this insecurity has been good news for British security firms run by former British SAS officers in Angola, and for former Gurkhas as they have formed a lucrative alliance offering protection for anyone with something worth stealing, ranging from the British embassy to the state-run Endiara diamond-mining company. Last year's British defence cuts slashed the number of Nepalese fighters serving the Crown by more than half to 2,500.

But the world's best-known and best-loved mercenaries, who have been employed by the British since the early 19th century, are now to be seen patrolling the streets of Luanda and policing the diamond mines of the northeast for about twice what they earn from the British.

In the Angolan capital, where muggers are armed not with handyman's knives but AK47 rifles, and shots disturb the clammy air every night, the British embassy is guarded by four smiling Gurkhas in black baseball caps armed with their traditional heavy kukris, well suited to decapitation. Paid about £400 a month by a British company, Defence Systems International Limited, they already speak better Portuguese than their bosses.

Attack on Quebec leads to demands for ban on book

FROM JOHN BEST IN OTTAWA

MORDECAI Richler, the Canadian novelist, is under fire from his home province of Quebec for a book of non-fiction which one MP wants suppressed.

Oh Canada! Oh Quebec! — *Requiem for a Divided Country* is an outspoken treatise on Canadian political life, with special reference to the xenophobic nationalism which Richler believes is tearing at Quebec. It is so harsh that a Quebecois MP rose in the House of Commons last week to urge that it be banned under Canada's hate-literature laws. The request fell on deaf ears.

Jewish by birth — some of his most acclaimed novels, including *The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz*, are about the lives of Jewish families in Montreal — Richler reserves his most caustic criticisms for what he sees as a streak of anti-Semitism running through Quebec's history and public life. He denounces Lionel Groulx, an intellectual force in the province in the 1940s and 1950s, and a nationalist hero to many Quebecers, as a "viru-

lent anti-Semite" and a fascist. But what really stirred the pot was Richler's characterisation of *Le Devoir*, Quebec's most influential daily newspaper and a kind of icon to millions of French-Canadians, as an integral part of the alleged anti-Semitic tradition.

To help promote his book, the author broadcast an interview in which he said that, during the 1930s, *Le Devoir* was "interchangeable" with *Der Stürmer*, the notorious Nazi weekly personally directed by Hitler to spread lies about a Jewish plot to take over the world. Stung by the reference, Lise Bissonnette, publisher of *Le Devoir*, ran a signed editorial castigating Richler for defaming not only those now associated with the newspaper but the families of former editors as well.

Richler's book is an expansion of a devastating 31-page article he wrote last year for *The New Yorker* magazine, in which he ridiculed Quebec's notorious sign laws which prohibit outdoor advertising signs in any language other than French. What Ms Bissonnette calls the "real necessary, intense" anger felt by Quebecers is not likely to be mitigated by Richler's suggestion that many are descended from prostitutes imported by a 17th-century administrator "to satisfy the appetites of his mostly functionally illiterate soldiers".

Firm sends greetings from beyond the grave

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN NEW YORK

CARDS from Beyond of Fairport, New York state, has come up with an elegant solution to a worry which throughout the ages has nagged those who are about to die: how do you send greetings cards to your loved ones after you are gone?

For \$25 (£14) per year, the firm is offering to send cards to the near and dear of the departed on special occasions well into the next century. "Just think," says its advertisement, "you passed away months ago and yet on every occasion that is important to those you left behind... they

receive a beautiful card expressing your warm and loving thoughts to them."

Imagine the pleasure of the bereaved when the postman brings a tasteful birthday card with the real signature of the departed — signed, of course, in the pre-death period. "On this special day in your life," the card said, "take joy in the fact that those of us who have gone on before would give anything to be in your shoes."

Customers may wonder, however, about the potential for confusion in the matter of anniversaries.

Low-caste
Indians
learn to
be free

Christopher
Thomas meets
a Brahmin
teaching
Untouchables
to break from
their caste

Mukesh Kumar, who is a high-caste Brahmin, has been teaching Untouchables in the village of Kumbhariya in the state of Bihar. He has been doing this for several years and has helped many of them to break from their caste. He has been teaching them to read and write, and to work in the fields. He has also helped them to start small businesses. He has been very successful in his work, and many of the Untouchables in the village are now free from their caste.

Strike threat as Bonn turns down public sector pay rise

FROM IAN MURRAY IN BONN

TO THE dismay of the Bonn government, an arbitration panel yesterday said Germany's 2.3 million public-service workers should be given pay rises of 5.4 per cent at a cost of DM20 billion (£7 billion). The non-binding ruling was immediately rejected as "economically untenable" by Rudolf Seiters, the interior minister, but the workers' union is threatening to bring public services to a halt if the government refuses to negotiate on the figure when the two sides meet on Monday.

The government, struggling to drag inflation down from its ten-year high of 4.7 per cent, is desperately anxious for a low settlement in the sector, which traditionally

acts as a trendsetter for the rest of industry. It has offered the workers 3.5 per cent in reply to their 9.5 per cent claim and hoped that the arbitration panel would consider 4 per cent adequate.

The government's low offer would cost about DM13 billion. Even this is scarcely affordable, given that estimated public borrowing this year will reach DM180 billion, driving up interest payments on the national debt to DM100 billion, which is equivalent to almost a quarter of the federal budget. All this contributes to inflationary pressures and makes it less and less likely that the Bundesbank will be prepared to even consider a reduction in interest rates until late autumn — and only then if there is an unlikely reduction in wage settlements.

Yesterday's arbitration recommendation immediately increased union determination to fight for a higher settlement and encouraged postal and rail workers to press on with claims for 9.5 per cent. Even more worrying for the government is the fact that skilled workers in the engineering industry are also seeking 9.5 per cent. They are certain to want more than the public sector and have the industrial muscle to fight for it.

Union militancy is running high anyway following last weekend's settlement for 450,000 white-collar employees in the banking sector. Bank workers staged the first strikes in postwar history to force a deal which, with other concessions, they say is worth 6.4 per cent. Earlier in the year steel employers gave in without a fight and paid 6.34 per cent to foundrymen who had voted overwhelmingly in favour of strike action. These deals mean that unions generally expect settlements averaging about 6 per cent this year.

Kohl sees red over bananas

Bonn: Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, left for his Easter health-cure holiday yesterday, but not before sending an angry letter to Jacques Delors, the president of the European Commission, in Brussels. It concerned bananas (Ian Murray writes).

To Herr Kohl's outrage, the European Commission has proposed a new banana import quota to come into force from next year. The quota would also put a 20 per cent import duty on all fruit coming in from Germany's main suppliers.

The German consumer association has protested that the plan, which they say is largely for the benefit of France to protect producers in its Caribbean islands, will cost Germans DM1 billion (£350 million) a year. It will make bananas an unobtainable luxury for east Germans who never saw them under communism.

For millions of birds migrating from Africa to Europe, the huge Doñana national park in southern Spain is a vital feeding and watering station. Laurence Rose, senior international officer for the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, said: "Hundreds of millions of birds like to feed and get their feet wet at Doñana after a long Sahara crossing. It's crucial for British birds, from the common swallow to the rare black-tailed godwit, because the reserve is near the Strait of Gibraltar, the shortest sea crossing between the two continents."

Their habitat is in danger of destruction by property developers who want to build a resort near the reserve. The park's wildlife also includes some rare species such as the imperial eagle and the Iberian lynx. But there is hope following a report by 11 international experts on a development strategy for the park. European conservationists have welcomed the report, which was commissioned by the regional Andalusian government in Seville, and recently launched by Manuel Chaves, president of Andalusia. The report, ordered after protests from ecologists at the Costa Doñana project,

took a year to prepare and compares the scheme to the old fable of the goose and the golden egg, because it would devastate its main *raison d'être*, the bird sanctuary. The report proposes total protection for the Asperillo dunes, where the 32,000-bed resort is planned with golf courses and sports facilities, and advises against urban development.

Mr Rose said: "My immediate reaction is that the report is very, very positive." His society helped the Spanish Ornithological Society spearhead a campaign to save the 400 square miles of wetlands, woods and dunes west of the Guadalquivir river estuary. "My message now to Chaves is to put his money where his mouth is. He said he would abide by what the experts said."

Mr Rose said the Costa Doñana project, reportedly backed by local businessmen connected with the Expo '92 world fair in Seville, completely misunderstands the value of Doñana's wildlife, scenery and villages. The area has already been blighted by Matalascañas, a ramshackle coastal development from the Franco era.

Javier Castroviejo, a biologist and former park director who is president of the Friends of Doñana Association, said: "The report is a good declaration of principles, but has no legal effect. It states what we and many others including the European Community have been saying: if you take the water from the park to run the resort, the wetlands disappear."

The report calls for a £237 million investment programme in the region by Spain and the European Community with the emphasis on ecological tourism with accommodation in village inns and farmhouses, and better organised visits to a better managed park.



Final journey: members of the Palestine National Army carry the coffin of one of the three crewmen who died when the plane carrying Yasser Arafat, the Palestine Liberation Organisation leader, crashed in the desert in south-

ern Libya on Tuesday. The PLO office in Jordan said the two Palestinians would be buried in Amman today. Mr Arafat, bruised and bandaged, left hospital yesterday. Libyan health authorities announced. The official news

agency, Jana, reported that Mr Arafat, aged 62, left Misrata almost 24 hours after being rescued in the Sahara desert and would recuperate in Libya. Doctors said that the Palestinian leader was in good health. (Reuters)

Gadaffi tries to divide the West

COLONEL Muammar Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, may be attempting to divide the international coalition against him by offering to cooperate with France in its investigation into the bringing down of a French airliner while continuing to defy America and Britain over the Lockerbie bombing.

So far Libya has relied on its traditional Arab and Islamic supporters to fight back diplomatically against the West. But, with little sign of a breakthrough in mediation efforts, and only days to go before the April 15 ultimatum for Libya to comply with United Nations Security Council resolution 755 or face a ban on air links and arms sales, Tripoli seems to have embarked on a last-minute campaign to seek French sympathy.

Western diplomats first suspected the Libyan ploy this week, when Tripoli sent a letter through the Arab League to Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN secretary-general, in which it repeated its offer to send two Libyans accused of the Lockerbie bombing to a neutral third country, but refused to allow them to stand trial in America or Scotland.

The Lockerbie offer was

Tripoli woos Paris but the drive for sanctions is still on. Richard Beeston writes from Cairo

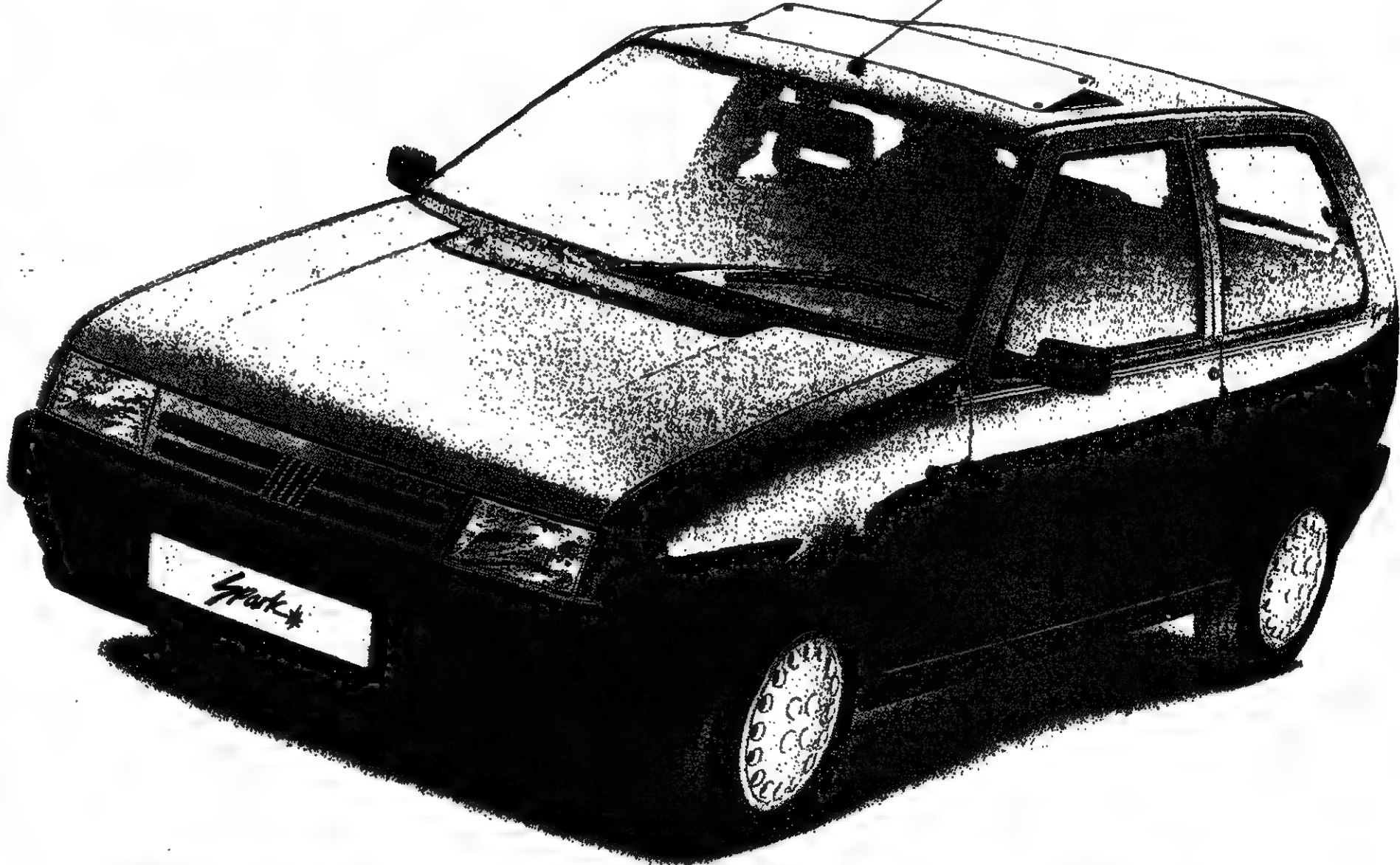
dismissed outright by British officials and was described by Brent Scowcroft, the American national security adviser, as a time-wasting tactic. He said Tripoli was attempting to find any way it could of "avoiding complying with the United Nations resolution".

But observers pointed out that, in addressing the question of the bombing of the UTA airliner over Niger in 1989, the Libyans appeared to be more flexible and had offered to meet French demands that four Libyan suspects should travel to Paris to be interrogated by a French investigating magistrate.

A Western diplomat said yesterday that the Libyans had displayed a new willingness to comply with the French demands and that this was seen as a tactical manoeuvre.

Despite Colonel Gaddafi's manoeuvring, however, one diplomat said: "The French have made it clear that we are all in this together, that it is 'all for one and one for all'."

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leads to
on book

Delors scolds Twelve for straying from righteous path to unity



Reynolds: referendum could spell confusion

JACQUES Delors is again upset with the European Community's recalcitrant governments and their habit of letting him down.

The president of the European Commission has been scolding the Danes for going cold on the Maastricht treaty on political and monetary union, which may not pass a referendum in Denmark in June.

M. Delors also chided EC foreign ministers earlier this week for their failure to discuss seriously a bigger EC budget for the 1990s.

When his officials report to the EC summit in Lisbon in June on the future enlargement of the Community, M. Delors told the European parliament this week, governments are in for a shock. Nobody, he complained, has thought about how an EC double or treble its present size would function.

The EC's self-absorption of last

year, as its legal draftsmen argued in Brussels about the small print of the treaty, has rapidly evaporated and been replaced by morose speculation about wider developments in Europe. The year 1992 is not turning out as the *annus mirabilis* of European unification that was once imagined.

Danish referendums traditionally resound to protests about Brussels robbing their parliament of its sovereignty, but this campaign is going badly for the pro-treaty coalition government. The latest opinion poll registered 36 per cent in favour of rejecting Maastricht and 32 per cent for accepting its terms. The government's most powerful argument for ratification — that otherwise Denmark would have to withdraw from the EC just as the rest of Scandinavia joins — has just over three weeks left to work to

Jacques Delors is again upset with EC leaders for letting him down over the Maastricht treaty and so much else.

George Brock reports.

reverse the trend. Albert Reynolds, Ireland's prime minister, now faces a referendum on the treaty which has become inextricably entangled with the divisive issue of Ireland's law against abortion which is in potential conflict with EC-guaranteed freedom of movement between countries. Mr Reynolds is hoping to outmanoeuvre anti-abortionists by asking his country to ratify the treaty before tackling abortion.

Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, and President Mitterrand of

France, chief sponsors of the talks which created the Maastricht deal, are plainly nervous that allowing Ireland to renegotiate a footnote will open the door to wider demands for treaty changes. With growing German misgivings about a single currency and fresh French worries about allowing foreigners to vote in local elections in France, both leaders fear that the treaty could unravel before it even comes into force.

The Maastricht summit allowed John Major to exclude Britain from new EC social charter laws. Labour leaders have said that they will opt Britain back in at the first opportunity. Since 11 states are on record as wanting Britain to come into line, Neil Kinnock could hardly be refused a new "intergovernmental conference" which is a legal requirement for changing the

treaty. In the present sour atmosphere, the governments will tie themselves in knots trying to justify allowing Britain a revision which most will want to deny to all others. "We will try to arrange things in such a way that a change would not look like an amendment to the treaty but a re-ordering," one French source said yesterday.

The sour mood stems from a dawning sense that Maastricht did not settle the great questions which confront Europe. The closer integration contained in the treaty, due to come into force next January, was arranged without any adjustment for the expansion of the Community to include not only Scandinavia but also Eastern Europe which most of the continent now believes inevitable.

Abortion talks, page 20



Delors: warning words for rebellious Danes

Fears grow over power of military

Russia and Ukraine patch up fleet truce

FROM BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW

RUSSIA and Ukraine yesterday edged back from confrontation over the Black Sea fleet, although their dispute over control of the ships remained unresolved.

Boris Yeltsin, the Russian president, told deputies that he and Leonid Kravchuk, the Ukrainian leader, had agreed, after two telephone conversations, to suspend the conflicting decrees on the status of the fleet which they had issued this week.

Sergei Shakhrai, an adviser to Mr Yeltsin, was expected to leave for Ukraine last night

for talks on a confrontation which has brought relations between the two republics to their lowest point since the collapse of the Soviet Union.

At the fleet headquarters in the Crimea, officers said they had been assured that Mr Kravchuk and Mr Yeltsin would soon meet face to face in order to settle the ships' fate. President Kravchuk complained earlier that military chiefs, such as Marshal Yevgeni Shaposhnikov and Admiral Vladimir Chernavin, who had arrived in Moscow after fruitless talks

with Ukrainian officials, enjoyed more power in the new commonwealth than political leaders.

In Moscow, reformist Russian politicians and army officers issued a warning that preparations to establish the republic's own defence forces — which will soon incorporate most of the former Soviet military — had been placed in the hands of hardliners with a history of opposing President Yeltsin. As a meeting of liberals and moderate nationalists, the commission entrusted by the Russian leader with setting up a defence establishment over the next month was denounced as a nest of conservatives, including supporters of last August's failed putsch.

Galina Starovoitova, a presidential adviser and the commission's only woman member, said she was considering resigning. She said she had been alarmed to hear Marshal Shaposhnikov say this week that defence policy would be based on the importance of "power and wealth". Oleg Kalugin, a retired KGB general, said the new Russian intelligence establishment was scarcely different from its Soviet predecessor.



Casting a cold eye: Cossacks from the Don region listen dispassionately at yesterday's Congress of Russian People's Deputies in Moscow. The congress adopted a statement expressing concern over human rights violations in Moldavia, which declared its independence last August

Arms depot burns

Yerevan: Exploding shells detonated by a fire at an arms depot belonging to the 7th Army of the Commonwealth of Independent States forced hundreds of thousands of people to flee their homes yesterday, officials said.

A spokesman for the commonwealth armed forces initially blamed the blaze, north of here, on a bomb attack by Armenian extremists. But Victor Salomatin, head of the commonwealth's administration department, told Tass that an attack by Armenian

militants "was just one version of the accident, and it is being investigated together with other possible causes".

At least seven people were injured and the authorities evacuated up to 400,000 residents of the villages of Balasov and Migut as well as some districts of the Armenian capital, the Interfax news agency said. The evacuees are being housed in local government buildings.

The authorities said that the depot housed "classic" weapons. (AFP)

Yeltsin issues warning to congress

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

THE Russian Congress of People's Deputies appeared to be balanced on a knife edge yesterday evening, after a day of behind-the-scenes bargaining between supporters and opponents of President Yeltsin's government failed to produce a compromise.

Mr Yeltsin was reportedly insisting that he continue to combine the posts of president and prime minister and retain the right to appoint ministers. His opponents were demanding that he step down as prime minister and allow parliament to approve government appointments.

Yegor Gaidar, the first deputy prime minister, was called twice to defend the government's reforms, once during

the public session, when he angrily accused his opponents of ignoring economic reality, then again during the lunch break when he answered questions from deputies.

The previous evening Mr Gaidar had said that he and the government would resign if Mr Yeltsin was forced to step down as prime minister. Yesterday Mr Yeltsin was apparently threatening to resign as prime minister and take the issue of his special powers to a referendum if the opposition prevailed at the congress. According to Galina Starovoitova, an adviser, he was even prepared to dissolve the congress and annul the deputies' mandates.

In the lobbies these threats were widely regarded as part of the overall bargaining. Most deputies are too scared of new elections to risk provoking the dissolution of the congress. By evening, a new congress resolution was said to have been drafted, preserving the sharp criticism of the government from an earlier draft, but allowing Mr Yeltsin to keep some of his special powers on certain conditions.

The conditions were believed to include an acceptable division of portfolios in the new government. Until the names of the new ministers are announced, however, it will be unclear how much Mr Yeltsin and Mr Gaidar have had to retreat, if at all.

Some of the more optimistic reformists suggested that the impasse had come about not because Mr Yeltsin and his government were in serious difficulties, but because the opposition was searching desperately for a face-saving formula to present to its constituents.

Aleksandr Shokhin, a deputy prime minister, told reporters that the resignation of the government would frustrate reforms and force a retreat. It would also place at risk the West's promised economic help. "If government reshuffles and an abrupt change to the current course were to begin," he said, "the promised \$24 billion (\$13.7 billion) would be lost."

Briton appointed to key Nato post

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

FIELD Marshal Sir Richard Vincent, Britain's top military commander, has been appointed chairman of Nato's most important planning and co-ordinating body, the military committee.

The appointment of the chief of defence staff, announced in Brussels yesterday, is only the third time it has gone to a British commander in 25 years. It comes on the eve of a meeting of Nato chiefs of staff and their counterparts from eastern Europe, the former Soviet republics and the Baltic states.

Last week defence ministers of the new 33-member North Atlantic Co-operation Council agreed to discuss military planning and strategy and to arrange joint exercises. Today the chiefs of staff of the 33 countries will begin their process at Nato headquarters in Brussels.

Sir Richard's appointment followed a strong challenge from General Jose Charlier from Belgium. At a similar meeting last year, the chiefs of staff failed to choose between the two.

Sir Richard, who took over as chief of the defence staff in April last year, will succeed General Vigleik Eide, Norwegian chief of staff, early next year. His appointment will

last three years. Since the new post is a full-time job, he will resign as chief of the defence staff.

The military committee co-ordinates defence planning and other Nato issues. Sir Richard began his military career in 1950 when he enlisted for national service with the Royal Artillery.

He has a reputation as a clear-thinking strategist and has held senior appointments at the Army Staff College, Royal Military College of Science and the Ministry of Defence.

He was appointed master general of the ordnance in 1983 and later became vice-chief of the defence staff. He was the first to be appointed chief of the defence staff without having been head of one of the armed services.

● Mediterranean force: Nato is to establish a new permanent naval force in the Mediterranean by the end of this month, the chiefs of staff decided yesterday. In the past Nato has deployed a fleet in the Mediterranean only on an ad hoc basis, notably during the Gulf war last year.

A Nato official said the new permanent fleet of six destroyers and frigates from Greece, Turkey and Italy would be based at Naples.

Serb advance sows panic in Bosnia

FROM TIM JUDAH IN SARAJEVO

AN AIR of panic hung over Sarajevo yesterday as the third Bosnian town in a week fell to Serbian forces. The attack on Zvornik, 50 miles to the northeast, provoked Alija Izetbegovic, the Bosnian president, to accuse the Yugoslav army of passivity in the face of the Serb attacks.

The frontier town of Zvornik, which lies on the main Sarajevo-to-Belgrade road, was captured by a mili-



tia led by a commander known by his nom de guerre, Arkan. A week ago a highly trained squad of Arkan's men seized the town of Bijeljina. Yesterday the Serb-dominated federal army took Kupres after clashes with Bosnian-Croat forces.

Arkan's militia, which officially comes under the command of the Yugoslav army, has eight tanks but there have been no reports of them being

used in Bosnia. The rapid capture of Bijeljina and Zvornik was achieved with mortars, rocket-propelled grenades, a long-mounted anti-aircraft gun and a commando squad of 150 men. Ill-trained and poorly armed militiamen have been swept aside by Arkan's soldiers, hardened on the battlefields of eastern Croatia.

By taking Bijeljina and Zvornik, both predominantly Muslim towns, Serb forces have seized control of two of the main roads from Bosnia to Serbia. Yesterday afternoon Bosnian radio reported panic in Visegrad, the third main frontier crossing, and fighting was reported around the town. The objective appears to be to carve out the frontiers of the proclaimed Serbian republic in the south, physically linking it with Serbia proper and the Serb-controlled territories within Croatia.

While the Serb-dominated Yugoslav army in the north and south of Bosnia is clearly backing its kith and kin, its role in Sarajevo itself has been far more ambiguous. Muslim politicians speculate that a significant part of the military could be persuaded to defect and become the core of a national Bosnian army.

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Doctors warning words for rebellious Dime.

Tsongas stands aside as Democrats board Clinton bandwagon

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PAUL TSONGAS yesterday announced that he would not re-enter the race for the Democratic presidential nomination, and a big effort began to get the party hierarchy to set aside its doubts and unite behind a battered Bill Clinton.

Mr Tsongas won a remarkable 29 per cent of Tuesday's New York primary vote without even campaigning, and acknowledged that he came "pretty close" to reviving the candidacy he suspended last month. However, he virtually admitted that Mr Clinton had sewn up the nomination with Tuesday's victories by saying that he did not want to be reduced to the role of "spoiler".

The former Massachusetts senator urged his supporters to cease their efforts on his behalf, but he refused to endorse Mr Clinton and gave a stern warning that the party had to adopt his austere economic message to have any chance of winning.

"I intend to have my voice heard," he declared at a Boston press conference. "Hear me well, Democrats and Republicans. The old ways of taking this country into economic ruin and social chaos are over. The people of America are ready for a new resolve... Don't turn your back on

this great energy that must be deployed to rescue America for ours and generations to follow."

Mr Tsongas said he had won over independents and moderate Republicans with his unorthodox pro-business message. He urged his party to adopt it before it was seized by Ross Perot, the Texas billionaire and probable independent candidate. The low turnout by uninspired Democrats in Tuesday's primaries "has to be terrifying" the party, he said.

Mr Tsongas was telephoned on Wednesday by Ron Brown, the Democratic



Tsongas insists on his pro-business message.

party chairman, who argued the mathematical improbability that he could overtake Mr Clinton, who now has 1,267 of the 2,145 delegates that are required for the nomination.

Mr Brown, who is anxious to focus the Democrats' fire on President Bush, and Mr Clinton's aides also began making calls to senior Democrats in Washington to urge them to declare for the Arkansas governor. What would finally dispel all talk of late entrants and brokered conventions would be for Mr Clinton to win the support of the 772 "super-delegates" — mostly congressmen and party officials — who go to July's nominating convention unpledged.

Those who received calls included Senator Lloyd Bentsen of Texas and Mario Cuomo, New York's governor, both of whom have been cited as possible alternatives to Mr Clinton.

New York exit polls showing nearly half the Democratic voters doubted that Mr Clinton had the honesty and integrity to serve as president underscored the anxiety of the party establishment, but there appeared to be a growing consensus in Washington that those doubts had to be set aside.



Stars and stripes: a black and white off-the-shoulder dress the by designer Arnold Scaasi modelled in New York this week at his autumn 1992 showing

Highway sinners see the red light

From the glee in my wife's voice when she phoned me at the office I knew that something bad had happened.

The state of Virginia had sent me a letter, she chorled. "Our records indicate that your accumulated demerit points under Virginia's driver-improvement law require you to attend a one-hour group interview," she read out. "At the interview you will have the opportunity to review your driving record and information will be provided on ways to improve your driving habits. Failure to attend will result in the indefinite suspension of your Virginia licence or privilege to operate a motor vehicle in Virginia."

I had been stopped for speeding in Maryland in 1990, and again in Idaho last year. America may have the world's highest crime and murder rates, and may be the land of the automobile, where driving is the most inalienable of rights, but violate a traffic law, however minor, and you will be summarily sat upon by the nanny state.

There were 25 of us in the sin-bin on Washington's outer fringes that night. Doctors and dentists, teachers and lorry drivers, crooks and housewives. We were made to pay a \$15 (£8.50) fee. We were each issued with a computer print-out headed "Abstract of driver history record", which listed our convictions. On cue, Karin Doolittle, our instructor, marched in cheerfully. She spoke for 55 minutes without hesitation, repetition or deviation on the finer points of driving and also on our own miserable shortcomings.

Last year Virginia summoned 210,000 drivers to group interviews. The programme, begun in 1974, has not produced any statistics to show its effectiveness so far.

Indeed, one participant left the meeting so exasperated that he screamed out of the car park straight into an oncoming car.

Martin Fletcher

De Klerk to meet head of the OAU

Abuja: Saying he was on "the most important visit of my career", R.F. "Pik" Botha, the South African foreign minister, has begun talks in Nigeria's capital with like Nwankwulu, his Nigerian counterpart.

Mr Botha is heading an all-white delegation to pave the way for the arrival late yesterday of President de Klerk, who will have talks with President Babangida, chairman of the Organisation of African Unity. (AFP)

Deal approved

Tokyo: North Korea's parliament has approved ratification of the agreement signed in January with the International Atomic Energy Agency to permit inspection of the country's secret nuclear factories. (Reuters)

Editor charged

Colombo: Sri Lanka has filed charges against the editor of a left-wing newspaper and a former senior police officer who claimed that more than 1,000 people were killed by government-backed death squads in 1988-89. (AFP)

Intake to be cut

Canberra: Australia may cut its intake of immigrants because of the poor state of the economy, Paul Keating, the prime minister, said rising unemployment was behind the move. (Reuters)

Remains faked

Hanoi: Le Chi Tam, chief of police in a Vietnam village, sold animal bones, tree roots and soil to local authorities as the remains of soldiers killed in the war, the Evening News here said. (Reuters)

Limit extended

Sydney: An Australian court has extended the time limit beyond the statutory six years for nuclear test site workers to claim for injury. The government now faces its first such claim. (Reuters)

Rabbi accused

Jerusalem: Yitzhak Halami, Israel's chief prison and police rabbi, has been suspended. He is accused of abusing his position, notably by allegedly charging for marriage services. (AFP)

Dutch flower power given royal touch

Queen Beatrix unfurled the flags of 23 participating nations to open the Floriade '92 horticultural extravaganza, billed as "The Greatest Flower Show on Earth", in Zoetermeer, in the heart of bulb-growing region of The Netherlands. The show is expected to attract 2.5 million visitors during its run.

President Bush, President Aylwin of Chile and Cardinal Cahal Daly, archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, will be among those receiving honorary degrees at the University of Notre Dame on May 17.

Sali Berisha, aged 47, leader of the Albanian Democratic party, was elected the country's first non-communist president by an overwhelming majority in parliament.

The Pope has set up a new foundation to help the poor in Latin America, to coincide with the 500th anniversary of Columbus's discovery of America. It will be financed by \$1 million (£570,000) left over from a fund established by Pope Paul VI in 1969.

President Biya of Cameroon appointed Simon Achidi Achu as prime minister, government radio said.

Japanese housewives lament falling shares

A MISERABLE little group of housewives, taxi drivers, weary salarymen and even the odd long-haired student outside the window of a securities broker in Tokyo, gloomily peering in and witnessing their fortunes draining away, apparently unchecked.

As the flashing red digits relayed from the world's largest stock exchange indicated another day of severe losses across the board, they watched share prices fall to a 5½-year low. Japanese shares have shed 56 per cent of their value since their peak in December 1989.

"I feel like crying," a distressed woman said. She explained between loud sniffs how she had invested all her savings in 1986 in the newly privatised Nippon Telegraph and Telephone company, the world's second-largest corporation and the undisputed housewives' favourite for investments. She had bought a single share for 3.18 million yen (£13,826). Last night the company's shares closed at 590,000 yen making her share worth less than a quarter its original value.

Undeterred through the falling markets of the first three months of this year, she had hung on to her shares in the belief that the financial authorities would step in and support the Tokyo market, as they have done on such previous occasions as the world stock market collapse of

As the Nikkei stock index dropped more than a quarter, Joanna Pitman in Tokyo counts the human cost of deepening recession

1987. Her anguished cries for guidance, now that her investment has slumped to yet another nadir, reflect Tokyo's desperate mood. Many believe that the financial authorities, in the form of the Bank of Japan and the omnipotent finance ministry, could step in on any day and arrange for the market to be propped up. They are not doing so because, it is alleged, they are punishing the more speculative elements of the Japanese financial world for their greed and opportunism perpetrated during the boom years of the late 1980s.

Skeletons are tumbling out of the cupboard. On Wednesday the Tokyo district court declared Mitsubishi Kotani, a stock speculator — a Michael Milken of Japan — bankrupt. He was at the centre of a share-manipulation scandal which directly involved doubtful business practices by Japan's most prestigious banks and financial companies.

Mr Kotani's bankruptcy, which involved debts of 124 billion yen, was the second-largest after the 410 billion yen insolvency last year of Nui Onoue, aged 61, a for-

mer waitress and restaurant owner, who managed to persuade the Industrial Bank of Japan to lend her 240 billion yen. Ms Onoue, who used the money for rapacious investments in the stock market, under the guidance of a Buddhist healer, is now in jail suspected of procuring illegal underworld loans. Sympathisers believe that Ms Onoue and Mr Kotani, like Milken, the former junk-bond king, are scapegoats for the trouble caused by business practices long condoned.

Now that the stock market has fallen by more than 25 per cent since the beginning of this year and is showing no signs of slowing, the financial executives of Japan's ostensibly invincible corporations are spending sleepless nights, wrestling with the question of how much damage is being inflicted on their business. However, all is not lost. The financial authorities still have the health of the Japanese financial system at heart and will not allow the Nikkei average to fall to a point where it could be damaged irrevocably. "They intend to make the greediest upstairs elements of the market really suffer before they come in and rescue the markets," a former senior manager at the Industrial Bank of Japan said. "We may have to wait until the summer or the autumn."

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Nikkei dive, page 21

Imelda says she will face jail to bring home Marcos body

IMELDA Marcos said yesterday she would defy a government ban and bring to the Philippines this weekend the body of her late husband, former President Ferdinand Marcos (Abby Tan writes from Manila).

"I am willing to go to jail for it," the former first lady was quoted by her lawyer, Antonio Coronel, as saying after the government said it would not allow the body to return until after the presidential election on May 11.

In a statement, the government of President Aquino said: "We cannot risk any

disturbance in public order at this time when emotions are high as the result of the election campaign."

Mrs Marcos, who is a candidate in the presidential race but is given only a small chance of success, said the ban could only mean that the government was afraid for the prospects of Mrs Aquino's candidature, Fidel Ramos, a former defence secretary.

Marcos died in Hawaii in September 1989 and is kept in a refrigerated crypt. He was exiled after 20 years' rule as the result of a people power revolt in February 1986.

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THE TIMES

Exiles' return hangs on Iran poll

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN TEHRAN

MORE THAN 20 million Iranians vote today in an election overshadowed by the threat of violence between moderates and Islamic hardliners who fear it will further diminish their influence and weaken Iran's anti-Western stand.

The poll is the culmination of the power struggle between the two main factions in Iranian life. A success for supporters of the pragmatic President Rafsanjani would not only woo Western investment but also the thousands of educated Iranians who fled the excesses of Islamic zealotry. Some 90,000 members of the "disciplinary forces" will be on duty to prevent clashes at the poll, the first since the death of Ayatollah Khomeini began the gradual process of softening the image of the theocratic republic he founded in 1979.

The radicals, whose leading candidate is Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, the mastermind behind the Lebanese Hezbollah (Party of God), allege that voting lists, and even the eventual results, are all being rigged to push them to the sidelines.

Although Western governments are as anxious as President Rafsanjani to see

the hardline majority in the 270-seat parliament disappear, there are fears that radicals might then resort to violence to back their charge that the revolution is being sold out.

"This election is the most important ever held here. It is being pitched as much to win back exiles with their expertise and hard currency as towards foreign governments hoping for a fresh approach," said one ambassador. "Of course, if the radicals do better than predicted, it will all backfire."

Another younger European envoy explained: "Since I arrived seven months ago, all my Iranian friends are

returnees from the West. Frankly, they are more sophisticated than I am, and see this place as somewhere to escape the recession and make money."

So far the rate of return has been a trickle, but there are hopes that it could turn into a flood if the zealous loose their grip on parliament, their last bastion of power. Already new villas are beginning to spring up in fashionable parts of north Tehran and hotels are planned on a scale not envisaged since the Shah was overthrown.

One well dressed middle-aged woman, who returned recently from Paris, said:



Rafsanjani: hoping for influx of hard currency



Mohtashemi: claims that ballot is rigged

How to save the world

Nigel Hawkes ponders a threat from outer space

Is it a bird? Is it a plane? No, it's an asteroid and it's got our number on it.

Some time, although possibly not next week, a huge object from space will crash into the Earth at a speed of 16 miles a second, exploding with the force of a million H-bombs and hurling enough rocks and debris into the air to blot out the Sun. Last week a team of scientists from the American space agency, Nasa, recommended spending \$50 million on new telescopes to watch the skies and warn of the approaching cataclysm.

More modestly, two British astronomers have been given time on the British telescopes in the Canary Islands to study what are called "near-Earth objects" and try to discover more about them. Dr Alan Fitzsimmons of Queen's University, Belfast, says the subject has been neglected by astronomers and, while no alarmist, points out that of a thousand objects believed to have orbits that cross the Earth's, we have discovered only 100 and know almost nothing about all but 10.

The objects come from the asteroid belt, a collection of lumps of rock of various sizes which mostly cluster in a ring between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter. Some, however, have orbits that cross the Earth's, for reasons not yet plain. Such near-Earth objects may be asteroids, or may be dead comets covered with a layer of dust, something Dr Fitzsimmons would like to settle by studying the way they reflect sunlight.

The American proposal has been greeted with some derision by Washington cynics familiar with the ploys used by scientists to plunder the public wallet. The *Washington Times* described the Nasa report as a "scam to take away taxpayers' money", adding that there is no evidence that anyone, in all human history, has ever been killed by an asteroid.

Hold on there, fellas! Maybe it is hard to identify human victims, but there is good evidence that an impact 65 million years ago helped to wipe out a whole species, the dinosaurs. In 1908 an entire Siberian forest was incinerated when an object 200 ft across struck it, releasing as much energy as 20 large hydrogen bombs. Last year, a tiny object no more than 15-30 ft across missed the Earth by only 100,000 miles, less than half the distance to the Moon. The Earth's surface, when examined closely, is as dotted with holes as a Gruyère cheese: at least 130 impact craters have been identified.

So the possibility of an impact is not in question; what matters is how often it might happen and how large the effect would be. Insisting that "the risk is real", the co-chairman of the Nasa panel, Dr David Morrison told *The New York Times* that we live in a cosmic shooting gallery.

The panel estimates that a proper search might identify between 1,050 and 4,200 Earth-crossing asteroids at least one kilometre in diameter, big enough to disrupt life on Earth by throwing up enough debris to disturb the climate for years or decades. An asteroid this size is expected to hit the Earth every 300,000 years or so. That gives the average person, living for 70 years, roughly a one in 4,000 chance of experiencing such an event. Nasa points out that these may be long odds compared with what people are used to, but are not beyond reckoning. For comparison, the risk of dying in an air crash is one in 20,000.

Of course, it is one thing to know that the Earth is about to be struck, quite another to do anything about it, beyond hiding under the kitchen table. The Nasa proposal is to try to discover more about the risks. With six new telescopes and 25 years' observation, they hope to pin down the orbits of 90 per cent of the near-Earth objects and identify those destined to collide with the Earth in the next century or two.

Once orbits are established, impacts can be predicted sufficiently far ahead to consider launching a space mission to an errant asteroid to give it a nudge into a safer orbit. That would be expensive, but less so than sharing the fate of the dinosaurs. For \$50 million, plus another \$10 million a year in running costs, Nasa says the new telescopes would be a worthwhile insurance. After an election campaign of short-term thinking, it is a pleasure to consider a proposal as out-of-sight as this one. My own view is that Nasa should be given the money, if only for creating a worry we can all contemplate without anxiety. What is \$50 million to save the human race and keep a few astronomers amusingly employed? As far as I am concerned they can start tomorrow.

The hostel for asylum seekers in Berlin-Lichtenberg has been newly reinforced. The ugly concrete block built by Honecker's regime to house the east's guest workers from Vietnam, Cuba and Marxist Africa now has double strength metal doors and shatterproof windows, in preparation for the next attack by the neo-Nazi groups who roam the area. These occur weekly.

In the surrounding streets where the east's working-class families are industriously renovating their apartments, the hostel is referred to as the "black flock". A typical resident, Frau Heintzelmann, voted for Chancellor Kohl's Christian Democrats in the last elections, but has been disappointed by their failure to stem the number of asylum seekers entering the country. "It's a flood," she says, and her voice grows louder as she warms to her theme, "more and more of them all the time. They are taking our jobs and our apartments and someone has to do something instead of just talking all the time."

All the trees are budding, the Japanese tourists are peeping out shyly from behind their wide-angle lenses, and the sound of the first truly acerbic academic row of the season can be heard reverberating through the courts. It is springtime in Cambridge.

The latest spat has been brewing for a fortnight. During the usually placid degree ceremony at the university Senate House last month, three dons stood up when Jacques Derrida was nominated for an honorary degree, and cried "non place!" (it does not please me) — and the machinery of the all-out academic dispute rolled magnificently into operation.

Derrida, the famously opaque French philosopher of deconstructionism, is not an immediately obvious focus for intercollegiate university disagreement: he has had no effect on education funding, unlike Mrs Thatcher (who was rejected by Oxford in 1985) or Lord Hailsham (whose degree was objected to but finally awarded by Cambridge in 1963); he is not a controversial political figure, unlike President Bhutto of Pakistan, who was rejected for an honorary degree by Oxford in 1975.

None of which has dimmed the ferocity of the dons' dispute, a cyclical event which enables academics to flex their muscles and say the exquisitely rude things about each other that have been brewing gently all winter.

Perhaps it is the requirement to spend many nights of the year dining opposite people they would rather avoid that gives such arguments their unique vitriol; not only are dons more intelligent than most people, they are required by the etiquette of college life to be more polite. When this politeness is briefly suspended in the interests of academic debate, the acid boils over.

Derrida, born in Algeria in 1930, argues that language is indeterminate, and meaning as

In the last two years, the number of people seeking asylum has risen sharply to reach a record 35,000 in March alone, and racial attacks have become the norm. The present restricted immigration policy has invited abuse of Germany's constitutionally enshrined right to asylum for the persecuted, and fuels the arguments of those who claim that foreigners are cheating their way into Germany.

There is a vetting process lasting at least a year, which is designed to sort genuine refugees from would-be economic immigrants, but when it has ended it is impossible to make anyone leave, whether or not they have been accepted.

Last weekend's regional elections were fought and lost by both parties on the issue of foreigners. The sweeping gains made last weekend by the far-right Republicans in the south and by the German People's

party in the north demonstrate that fear of the foreigner is by no means confined to the east.

This will discomfort many westerners, who like to think that racism is an east German phenomenon. How much easier to discuss the alienation of youth in Saxony than the quiet malice of one's own neighbours. There are few who have not reacted in horror to the attacks on foreigners in eastern cities, but many seem surprisingly unaware of the extent of the violence against foreigners in their own towns and cities.

We have been treated to patronising talk-shows in which monosyllabic neo-Nazis from Dresden were paraded like dancing bears before horrified liberal western audiences, to be told that the source of the dislike of foreigners was the closed society in which they were brought up. Too much attention is paid to short-haired

lads motivated primarily by the desire to shock, and gratified by the panic they cause whenever they lace up their boots. Too little attention has been paid to those who would never dream of taking part in street battles but who use their votes to express their frustration, anger and fear.

This is the group which has been omitted from the chancellor's considerations since 1989 and which feels aggrieved and worried that it is being bypassed in the unity process. Its members have succumbed to deep Angst about their own future in the new Germany. Unlike the east German working class, they have no practical reasons to identify with the process, and would, in their heart of hearts, have preferred the continuation of divided certainties. They are proud of their basic prosperity and scared of it being lost or even reduced.

Many of the new right-wing voters are very young. A breakdown of the results in the regions which voted on Sunday showed that the overwhelming majority are still in their twenties, and two-thirds were first-time voters. It is no longer possible to blame welcome outcomes on the old Nazis. The results indicate that a new political class is emerging in Germany, which does not feel itself represented by the democratic parties and feels strongly enough to register a protest vote.

If the Christian Democrats and Social Democrats fail to respond swiftly and imaginatively to increase their appeal to the young, they may see one of the far-right parties emerging strongly, like Jörg Haider's Freedom Party in Austria, as the home of the consensus-weary twentysomethings.

In the recent elections, the

Christian Democrats in the south played into the hands of the far right by promoting the topic in panic-stricken tones. Only after the result did Chancellor Kohl promise immediate and close co-operation with the opposition and the long overdue implementation of an accelerated vetting process to clear the logjam of those seeking asylum.

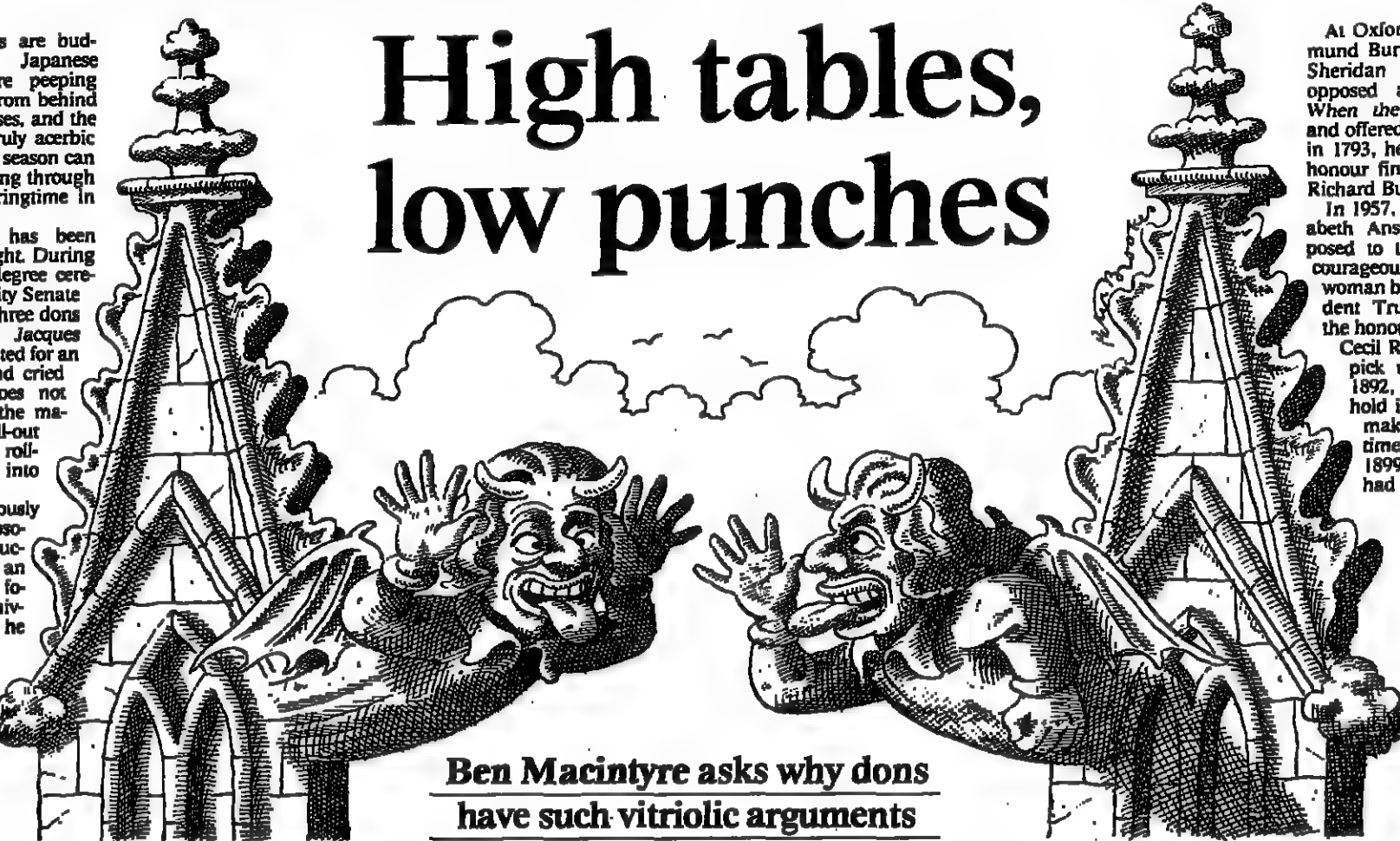
Until now Germany has put its faith in a common European asylum policy sorting out the problem in Brussels rather than Bonn. But that prospect is too remote to be useful. Bonn must make its uncomfortable decisions alone. The answer may lie with stricter rules on asylum — in effect an end to the constitutionally enshrined right to asylum — and a more open policy on immigration instead.

It would be wrong to conclude that there are more racists in Germany than elsewhere, but bad policies can make racists out of usually tolerant people. The democratic right and left will need to employ all their energies to stop the asylum issue fuelling intolerance.

Echoes of the Nazi past

Anne McElvoy, in Berlin, talks to young Germans whose fear of foreigners is fuelling the far right

High tables, low punches



Ben Macintyre asks why dons have such vitriolic arguments

such is not just elusive but necessarily indefinable: as a philosophical principle it may be open to question, but as a description of the Derrida debate itself, it is largely accurate.

Like Derrida's works, the argument over his importance has a tendency to lapse into the incomprehensible.

Broadly speaking, the younger, left-wing academics see in Derrida a philosopher of essentially iconoclastic merit, whose destructive approach has given the Western literary tradition a much-needed jolt. On the other side are the more traditional and conservative thinkers, who see Derrida's influence as dangerous, obscurantist and his followers as irrational subversives.

The fact that he has written some 35 books and once planned a career as a professional footballer may have added to the strength of feeling against him, but in many ways this is a continuation

of the "structuralist" debate of the 1980s.

The protestors, while making the nature of their objections abundantly clear, have so far avoided a definitive diatribe against the French thinker; that will come in time for May 16, when Derrida's worthiness will be put to the vote by the 2,500 dons of Cambridge.

Such debates often take on a significance distinct from the individuals or principles involved, and the Derrida issue has become an opportunity for other universities to accuse Cambridge of provincialism, Francophobia and so forth.

"These things are symbolic," says Dr Brian Harrison, editor of the latest volume of the *History of Oxford*. "Certainly the Thatcher vote was an occasion when one decided what sort of person one was. It was not just a political split, but became a row between disciplines with so

many scientists and mathematicians feeling they had been underfunded."

The Cambridge English faculty (which Dr Harrison describes as "particularly fractious") has often been a fertile source of academic dispute — the battle between F.R. Leavis and Sir Arthur Quiller-Couch in 1926 and the explosion over the views of structuralist English don Colin MacCabe being only the most violent eruptions in a simmering confrontation over scholarly technique.

In February, the high table of Peterhouse became the focus of a bitter dispute over the academic merits or otherwise of one of the college fellows, John Adamson.

The argument began with a broadside against Adamson from Mark Kishansky, professor of history at Harvard, accusing him of poor, indeed manipulative, historical meth-

ods in his study of the English civil war. The debate quickly took on an *ad hominem* slant, prompting Lord Russell, one of Adamson's supporters, to note that the arguments betrayed "malice rather than concern for scholarship".

Donnish disputes often spill over from methodology to the careers of individuals, so obscuring the academic issues and enabling dons from all disciplines, and other universities, to join in. Hence the inflammatory tendencies of the honorary degree. The first of these at Oxford was awarded in 1479, to one Lionel Woodville, whose only claim to distinction was that he was a member of the royal family.

While it is argued by some that honorary degrees should be awarded for merit alone, regardless of politics or other considerations, they have traditionally been used to confer (or withhold) approval.

At Oxford doctorates for Edmund Burke in 1790 and R.B. Sheridan in 1810 were both opposed and hotly debated. When the university reluctantly offered Burke the doctorate in 1793, he declined it, but the honour finally went to his son Richard Burke.

In 1957, the philosopher Elizabeth Anscombe strongly opposed to the bomb, fought a courageous but futile one-woman battle to prevent President Truman from gaining the honour.

Cecil Rhodes was unable to pick up his doctorate in 1892, and it was agreed to hold it over until he could make the journey. By the time he got to Oxford (in 1899), a select committee had censured Rhodes's "heavy responsibility" for the offensive into Boer territory known as the Jameson raid, and the conferment was strongly opposed. The degree was finally awarded when the Duke of York, who attended the ceremony, made it clear that he would not tolerate any dissension in his presence.

In 1907, Oxford awarded a doctorate to the Kaiser "the most mighty Prince, William III... as skilled in the art of peace as in the science of war." After hostilities broke out between Britain and Germany, the honour was rescinded, and a portrait of the Kaiser in doctoral robes was removed from the Bodleian Library. It was finally returned in the Examination Schools.

But such disputes allow more than just a peep into the sometimes venomous world of the common room: they provide an opportunity for the layman to observe, if only superficially, the trend of intellectual discourse. Derrida has argued that by contrast with British and American philosophers, French thinkers have a tradition of bringing intellectual and cultural concerns to a wider audience. He can take heart that, if the vote goes against him on May 16, he has at least succeeded in that.



...and moreover

ALAN COREN

I have a pregnant goldfish. But do not write to congratulate me. Do not start knitting things.

Such kindnesses would be premature. I have passed this way before. Every April, I stroll through the back garden, green shoots below, plump buds above, to check for consonant burgeoning in the pond, and, sure enough, every year one of my two dozen fish is duly swollen. It is with egg. It is not always the same fish, but let us not get sidetracked into why this should be, because before we know it we shall find ourselves speculating as to what makes a fish attractive, what makes other fish fancy it one year but not the next, and what the complex social and sexual mores are which obtain in six cubic yards of Cricklow water. I ensure that only one female per annum, ever, as my mother would have put it, fails. Having learned to tread warily in the semantics of modern feminism, I do not of course put it that way myself. I do not even know why my mother's generation put it that way, it seems a bit glib, but I don't intend to start rummaging through dictionaries. It's bad enough that my desk is piled high with ichthyological texts. These being what you lug home from the library if you want little fish.

Because if you don't, you have no way of stopping what big fish want, which is little fish, too, but they want them somewhat differently: they want to eat them. For fish are paedophilic worse

yet, they do not gobble only other fish's offspring, they also gobble their own. Why they should have developed this repugnant habit is beyond me, nothing could be more literally counter-productive, but that is what fish do.

It is a source of unremitting annual distress to the caring pondholder. Every April, he is forced to wake from his prelapsarian dream. Once, I was God: I dug a hole to create a little world, I looked upon it and saw that it was good, I said "Be fruitful, and multiply," but I shrewdly rested after the fifth day, believing that if I stopped at fish, all would remain innocent. No one was going to offer fish an apple. I didn't know they didn't have to. I didn't know that fish came with built-in sin. I didn't know that when one became fruitful, the other 23 swam round it waiting for it to multiply so that they could all tuck in.

Well, this year I am putting a stop to it. You can do that if you're God, and have a library ticket. I have filleted everything from *You and Your Pond* to *You and Your Fish*, and, under their instruction, I have built a nursery. You might not recognise it as such, it does not have Wombles wallpaper, it does not have a tin bath full of weeds and walk on, but a nursery is what it is. Somewhere in the weeds is the pregnant fish, poised to lay a million eggs, and as soon as she does this, I, as galvanised as the

nursery itself, will be on her in a trice and, even as she begins to salivate, will place her on the other side of the loose muslin partition which bisects the bath, go to the pond, select a male, and pop him in beside her. He will then, I am told, begin humping himself at the muslin, which will allow him to fertilise the eggs, but will not let him through to eat them; thus, after a bit, I shall have a million tiny fish on one side of the curtain, driving their disgusting parents into a gourmand, but impotent, frenzy. I shall then replace the adult fish in the pond.

Fine. But what happens next? The books do not say. I turn the page to find that like some brusque midwife, they have washed their hands, renounced their Rugges, and pedalled away. Leaving me with a million infants, never mind what happens when I pop the parents back in the pond and 22 by-now-ravenous diners start shouting "Where's our bloody lunch?" All that the books say is that baby fish should not be placed in the pond until they are too large to be attacked. Have you any idea what a million fish too large to be attacked will look like? Forget the tin bath, I shall need the Serpentine.

I have thought long and hard about what I have started, and there would seem to be only one way to finish it. I shall ring up MacIntyre and tell them I am in a position to lay my hands on a reliable supply of whitebait. It would be a terrible waste to let all those little fish go uneaten.

Democracy at bay

AS VOTERS went to the polls yesterday, Britain's election-free pockets around the country were over-run by those seeking refuge. Foremost among them was Lundy, the tiny National Trust island off the north Devon coast. One of only a handful of places in Britain without a polling station, Lundy found its population of 17 swelled by 70 holidaymakers, unprecedented for the time of year, seeking sanctuary from opinion pollsters, canvassers and candidates, not one of whom ventured across the Bristol Channel to solicit the support of the island's 13 electors during the campaign.

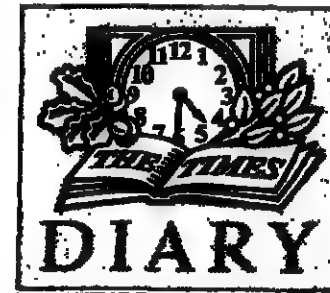
Wendy Puckey, who answers the only telephone on the island, says: "They did send us their election

what else is there to talk about?



literature, but I am ashamed to admit I don't even know the name of the defending MP. I don't think the other 12 voters here do either."

It was Emma Nicholson. The island stocks no newspapers, and none of the 26 self-catering cottages — currently fully occupied, as never before at this time of year — has the dubious benefit of television or radio. Any-



way, the electricity supply stops at midnight.

The Loch Ness House Hotel, just outside Inverness, took a more cynical approach. Talk of the election was banned in the bars and restaurants while TVs and radios were removed from rooms as part of an "escape the election break". Books, instead of newspapers, appeared at breakfast; ear-plugs and blindfolds were issued free. A full house was reported.

By contrast Burton Green, despite a population of just 1,055, laid claim yesterday to be the most election-saturated place in Britain. Just a pin-prick on the map, the village returns — or helps to return — no fewer than three MPs. The local school acted as a polling station for Rugby constituents, while up the road the village hall was the venue for Meriden voters. Those who fell within Coventry South West had to trek to a neighbouring village, where a temporary booth had been installed in a pub car park.

Anthony Hopkins has been brought down to earth with a bump after his Academy Award success. The actor has returned to Britain for his first post-Oscar engagement: a promotional video for the Post Office. Don't ever set the dog on the postman again. He might end up eating the canine.

Franks commission

AMONG the least sung heroes of the election campaign were five retired Tory MPs who have spent the past month answering the thousand or more letters a day addressed to John Major which have poured into Downing Street.

The job is a vital one, for a single word out of place could cost hundreds of votes in marginal constituencies, as Matthew Parris discovered when he was Mrs Thatcher's correspondence secretary before the 1979 election.

The five Downing Street agony aunts, who have been working for 12 hours a day to deal with the correspondence, are Sir Robert McCrindle, Sir Hugh Rossi, Sir William Clark, Robert Boswell and Michael Latham. By yesterday they had replied to more than 20,000 letters.

The letters were divided into 26 subject headings, and Rossi drew the short straw. Animal welfare has attracted the largest postbag, followed closely by letters from English voters about the threat to the union — which may explain why Major devoted so much time to the subject in the closing days of the campaign.

Anyone who thought the British election was characterised by low abuse might care to peruse Paul Keating's Book of Insults, an anthology of the more outrageous sayings of the Australian prime minister, published this week in Canberra. His description of the opposition leader, John Hewson, surely beats Denis Healey's famous description of Sir Geoffrey Howe as like being "savaged by a dead sheep". Coming under attack by Hewson is like being "flogged with a warm lettuce". But Keating does not enjoy receiving it as much as he likes dishing it out.

When Hewson struck back, calling Keating's faction "the nastiest thing this country has had to the mafia in decades", the prime minister was shocked. Without a flicker of embarrassment, he denounced such abuse as likely "to lower the esteem of parliament in the eyes of the public".

X-country

WHATEVER else may have been happening yesterday, it was National Saffron Day. The event could not have been more appropriate. The saffron, a large black diagonal cross, is the emblem of the Thames Hare and Hounds, believed to be the oldest cross-country club in the world, established in 1866.

"We realised that millions of our crosses would be appearing on ballot papers throughout the country," said organiser Mike Allen, "so we decided to declare our own national day." A celebratory dinner was held at the Travellers' Club last night both to mark the occasion and to honour Hugh Bryant and Denis Kensit, the club's two oldest active members.

If you have not received a personal letter from Liz Taylor in the past few days, do not feel offended. Just 84 of the world's richest have been hand-picked to receive a personal appeal trying to persuade them to fork out over \$1 million dollars for a diamond mask to raise money for Taylor's Aids charity. "For those who think they're on every important list, there's a worldwide list of truly wealthy people more exclusive than the US Senate or the Vatican Curia. Those who haven't received the presentation package and personal letter from Elizabeth Taylor may not be as rich as they think they are," says her office. Thank heavens.



THE JAPANESE CRASH

Had millions of Britons last night not been awaiting a verdict on the next British government they would have been bombarded with television images of the floor of the Tokyo stock exchange. And they might well conclude that events in the latter venue may have more impact on Britain over the next few years than any result at the polls. When the Japanese economy gets a bad cold, the American and European economies should do more than look to their hankies.

The collapse of the Tokyo stock market has seen prices fall by an astonishing 60 per cent since the peak in 1990. In the last four days alone, the fall has produced losses that would imply the bankruptcy of every quoted company in Germany, France, Italy and Spain. Since the stock market crash of 1987 on Wall Street the world has become casual about periodic financial "crises". But like the boy who cried wolf, the world economy may not be immune from lasting damage, simply because there have been false alarms.

The Tokyo crash has been bigger than the one suffered five years ago on Wall Street. Because of the structure of the Japanese financial system, stock market values can have a more direct effect than they do in America on industrial investment and Japanese bank lending throughout the world, including in London.

Even in 1987 it was widely argued that a collapse in Tokyo, rather than New York, would be the true historical analogue of the Wall Street crash of 1929. Japan in the 1980s, like America in the 1920s, was the new financial superpower. Japan in the 1990s, like America in the 1930s, has turned out to be the country where industry, banking, stockbroking, speculation and politics have been most intimately — and dangerously — intertwined.

Now that the long-awaited Tokyo crash has become a reality, such historical analogies should not be read too literally. But neither should they be ignored. The world today is stuck in a recession longer and less responsive to the normal instruments of

economic policy than any in living memory. The causes of this recession are similar to the ones that produced disaster 60 years ago. In the 1980s, as in the 1920s, soaring stock market and property values were used to support ever more precarious levels of borrowing. As asset values started falling, the structures of debt were left without foundations; and crumbled.

The collapse of the Tokyo stock market is forcing Japanese banks and insurance companies to withdraw their capital from America and Europe, just as the great American financial institutions withdrew their funds from Britain and Europe after 1929. At present the Japanese authorities seem content to sit on their hands and watch this process of asset deflation unfolding. The Bank of Japan feels unable to cut interest rates sharply, fearing that lower interest rates would cause inflation, undermining the yen.

Unlike America and Europe, Japan has a clear alternative to monetary relaxation. Japan is today the only major industrialised country whose government enjoys a surplus of tax revenues over public spending. Its scope for large-scale fiscal refutation is immense. With a substantial fiscal stimulus, the Japanese government could help ease the troubles of its stock market did not induce further recession.

At present, Japanese politicians are too preoccupied with scandals and inter-factional feuding to act on taxes and public spending. Officials in the Bank of Japan and the Ministry of Finance seem positively gleeful as the "bubble economy" is punctured and their political masters are reduced to embarrassed impotence. Herein lies the road to ruin. With the world economy struggling to pull out of recession and America and Europe increasingly tempted by protectionism, Japan cannot afford the luxury of leaving its role in the world economy at the mercy of domestic political score-settling. Its government must act speedily to stimulate the Japanese and world economies, by raising public spending or cutting taxes or both.

BOSNIA ON THE BRINK

Any shots in Sarajevo send a shudder through Europe. As many feared, the European Community's recognition of Bosnia-Herzegovina has been followed by fresh fighting in the Yugoslav republic that lies at the heart of the Balkans. Dozens have been killed in skirmishes in the last few days, 31 in Sarajevo alone.

Clashes between the Serbs, who oppose secession, and the Muslims and Croats, who voted overwhelmingly for independence, now threaten this ethnically mixed republic with full-scale civil war. Extremist gangs on all sides are attacking each other at random, leading to retaliatory civilian massacres. Despite a history of mutual tolerance within Bosnia, despite agreement by the three main groups on a constitutional framework and despite the efforts of Alija Izetbegovic, the moderate Muslim president, Bosnia now appears to be trapped in a vortex of suspicion, fear and bloodshed.

European Community recognition is not the cause of the fighting, only a pretext for Serbian extremists to try to enforce with bullets what they have constantly failed to secure by ballot: the creation of a Greater Serbia. Since the EC's decision in December to recognise Croatia and Slovenia, all Yugoslavs have known that the outside world now accepts their country's de facto dismantlement. It was only a matter of time before other republics vying for independence were recognised. The EC only held back to give Lord Carrington and the inter-communal negotiations chaired by José Cutileiro, the Portuguese special envoy, a chance.

Having opted for independence, Bosnia now needs outside guarantees of its viability. Neither Serbia nor Croatia have dropped their earlier designs on the territories inhabited by their ethnic kinsmen. Hardliners round both President Milosevic and President Tudjman are looking for ways

to stir up trouble in the hope that they can change frontiers. The United Nations is to set up the headquarters of its peacekeeping operation in Sarajevo, but it has no mandate to deploy elsewhere in Bosnia. The EC therefore still has some hope of exerting pressure. On Wednesday it sent a tough message to President Milosevic in Belgrade warning him against his customary meddling. Senior Cutileiro has also told Bosnian leaders that recognition is only the first step in its relations with the Community. If Bosnia wants further EC support its leaders must restrain the militias.

Ethnic tensions in Bosnia are less acute than in Croatia. Not all Serbs back the nationalist extremists, and moderate Serb and Croat leaders are willing to work with the Muslims, the largest group. The Yugoslav army has announced that it will not pull out of Bosnia for five years because of the need to protect the Serbs, but it shows no desire to intervene in the fighting or take on the Croats and Muslims. It appears willing to negotiate with President Izetbegovic.

Yet the scope for peacemaking by outsiders is limited. Yugoslavia is like one of those Russian dolls: within each dispute are concealed ever more intractable local ones. The EC still has not recognised Macedonia because of Greek intransigence, though the 11 are losing patience with Athens over this. Having secured a declaration in Macedonia's constitution that it has no territorial claims on any neighbouring state, the EC cannot withhold recognition simply because of Greek sensitivities over its name.

The Community must now use whatever leverage it has through the Carrington peace talks to preserve a precarious peace and force all sides to confront the futility of surrendering to war. War breeds war, and could do so throughout the Balkans, far beyond the dusty streets of this old Ottoman city.

MUNICIPAL TWINS

Traveller's French, learned on the roads between Calais and the Dordogne, has introduced many a British tourist to the rudiments of Gallic civic pride. After the endearing list of boasts that tends to accompany the town sign of Quelqueville — "ses vins, ses huîtres, ses églises" — comes the inevitable "jumelage avec...". Few towns seem to lack a foreign twin, however improbable. Beddington and Biarritz? The connections forged between communities after the last war have led to friendships that no government could engineer from above. Now a European Community directive threatens to make those modest ententes much harder.

The most popular use for town twinning is the school-exchange visit. These are small-scale ventures, mostly organised by parent-teacher associations with little help even from their education authority. The money is often raised through jumble sales, raffles and sponsored swims, the trips fixed not through big companies but cheaply, with the help of the other town. Children become "twinned" with each other personally, staying in the others' homes. As any teacher will attest, languages are learned far faster in the host country with a local family than by memorising lists of irregular verbs copied from a textbook.

A directive that comes into force in December threatens to put these trips on the same regulatory footing as package tours. "Operators" would be forced to lodge a financial bond large enough to refund all the money paid by those taking the trip and to cover the cost of bringing the whole party back to Britain in an emergency. Lawyers are warning that the directive could prevent schools organising any foreign trips.

The tradition of twinning has a noble origin. One of the first jumelages was born soon after the first world war between Blackburn and the French town of Péronne, where the mayor of Blackburn's son had been killed in one of the battles of the Somme. The mayor fell in love with the town and Blackburn helped raise funds to rebuild the bridge destroyed in the fighting.

The same inspiration to make friends out of shared adversity brought two great victims of the next war — Coventry and Stalingrad — to twin with each other in 1944. The rebuilding of Europe in the 1940s saw a spate of twinnings in an effort to restore personal as well as national relations. Coventry is now the most-twinning city in Britain. Its 26 partners run from Dresden and Caen, both also heavily bombed, to Kingston, Jamaica and Jinan in China.

Some twinnings have been excuses for councillors jockeying at taxpayers' expense. Diplomatic incidents between delegations have sometimes made an entente less than cordiale. But links forged with Eastern European and Soviet towns during the Cold War are now proving their usefulness: last month, the people of Durham raised £28,000 to send a relief convoy of five articulated lorries, a 17-ton truck, a coach and a mobile home 2,500 miles to Kostroma in the former Soviet Union.

Town-twinning is a good example of Burke's "little platoons" at work. No government intervention is needed, no public expenditure incurred. Charity and enterprise are stirred where they work best, at the lowest possible level between people who come to know and like each other. Don't let Brussels spoil it.

Implications of libelling celebrities

From Mr James Gilbert

Sir, Your leader on the Jason Donovan libel action (April 7) says: "Probably 95 per cent of libel cases never get near a court, being settled early on by apology." You could have added: "and damages and costs to the plaintiff's instructions". It is so expensive — and usually futile — to resist a case, however preposterous it may be, that we publishers simply grind our teeth and pay up. If we carry libel insurance, our insurers will force us to settle: it's always cheaper to settle than fight.

No general harm done, you might think, in publishers being endlessly ripped off thus by the libel industry. But it does discourage us from pursuing rogues, which surely ought to be part of the press's duty. Only the wealthiest newspapers dare contemplate any sort of real investigative journalism. Of course it is hard to let juries decide the size of "awards"; and a side-effect is to cow us publishers all down the line.

Nor does there seem to be any hope of reform of Britain's uniquely oppressive libel laws. The libel industry itself, sitting on such a nice little earner, would surely resist such a move; and Parliament doesn't seem interested.

Sincerely,

JAMES GILBERT

(Publisher and Editor),

Pilot,

Pilot Publishing Company Ltd.,

The Clock House, 28 Old Town,

Clapham, SW4.

April 7.

From Mr Peter Smith

Sir, Your leader states: "Mr Donovan agreed that there is nothing libellous about saying that someone is homosexual." That was indeed the case put for Mr Donovan, on the shrewd basis that as *The Face* magazine had published a grossly offensive poster of him, which suggested that he was hypocritical as to his sexuality, there was no need for Mr Donovan to say that it was defamatory to suggest that he was homosexual.

The simple fact is that such a suggestion is defamatory. It may not be found to be so if one were so fortunate in court as to have a jury drawn from Hampstead or the media, but such persons are in no sense representative of the vast majority of our fellow citizens.

The advice I always give is that it would be highly defamatory to say, without clear evidence, that anyone

is homosexual: that advice would also be given by all libel lawyers of my acquaintance.

Yours faithfully,

PETER S. SMITH (Head of

Programme Legal Services),

Thames Television,

306-316 Euston Road, NW1.

April 7.

From Mr I. D. Bruce

Sir, The outcome of the libel case involving *The Face* has again given rise to suggestions that the freedom of juries to determine damages should be curtailed. Before suggestions like these are acted upon it may be worth reflecting that the jury-room is one place in Britain where the democratic process works and works well.

When juries demonstrated their unwillingness to convict under the Official Secrets Act the jury system was generally well regarded and seen as a defender of the citizen's freedoms.

Today the conclusion to be drawn from the succession of high damage awards by juries in libel cases is not that juries are capricious and illogical and ought to be better controlled, but rather that they are expressing a clear public view that publishers who damage the reputation of individuals are conducting their business in an unacceptable way.

Juries are so effective at expressing the public will and at preserving individual freedoms that their powers ought to be enhanced, not diminished.

Your obedient servant,

I. D. BRUCE,

1 Sandway Park, Hartford,

Northwich, Cheshire.

April 4.

From Mr Michael J. Brown

Sir, Juries seem to be less concerned with the hurt which has been caused than with the "fame" of the person defamed. That is logical where the libel may cause financial loss which the verdict cannot prevent. In any other circumstances a factory worker should surely be compensated on the same scale as a pop star or a politician.

Is he not hurt with the same weapon? Is he not healed by the same means? Shylock would have thought so. Jeffrey Archer might agree.

Yours faithfully,

MICHAEL J. BROWN,

Brown Cooper (solicitors),

7 Southampton Place, WC1.

April 7.

Shaw legacy

From the Master of Jesus College, Cambridge

Sir, In his article of April 7 in *Life & Times*, pugnaciously but inaccurately headed "Abuse of Shaw's literary legacy", Michael Holroyd alleges that, in the course of a question time discussion in the House of Lords, "Lord Renfrew... was happy to see Shaw's obvious wishes largely ignored and Parliament misled: he approved of the money being spent on refurbishing galleries and modernising the non-vegetarian restaurant...".

Perhaps I may assure your readers, and indeed Michael Holroyd, that I do not believe Shaw's wishes to have been ignored (and would be unhappy if they were) and would be surprised to see Parliament misled. Mr Holroyd has used his considerable powers of invention to concoct my supposed views on "the non-vegetarian restaurant" to which I made no reference whatever.

My contribution to the discussion

Charitable view

From Mr Mike Tuffrey

Sir, You report (April 2) the league table of corporate givers which reveals that cash donations to charities have risen as a percentage of profits. Good news, one might think. In fact it is misleading: there is little evidence that company giving has risen in real terms — merely that profits have fallen. It is still too early to judge to what extent charitable budgets will survive the recession.

The real story is buried in the comment you quote from the CBI. Companies are increasingly releasing em-

ployees, or simply giving them encouragement, to undertake community and voluntary work. When more companies demonstrate they are indeed corporate citizens, not just by making donations, welcome though they are, but by playing a full part in the life of their local communities with their time and other resources, then there will indeed be cause to celebrate. The community is a stakeholder in business just as much as are investors and employees.

Yours faithfully,

MIKE TUFFREY (Editor),

Community Affairs Briefing,

14 Soho Square, W1.

April 2.

A canal too twee

From Mrs Nancy Eaglesham

Sir, Your photograph today (April 2) shows the attractive "stairway to heaven" lock-series on the Grand Union Canal. Alas, the accompanying report reveals yet another British Waterways "improvement project" which will ruin the area for ever. It lists a marina, restaurant, tearoom, craft shop, visitor centre and all the other theme-park paraphernalia.

One could also add, from my experience of the Lancaster Canal, increased car-parking and pollution, "up-grading" towpaths by ripping

out old trees and vegetation in favour of bleak municipal gravel, the obliteration of real canal history by phoney "Jolly Bargeman" pubs, and the decoration of the whole with dinky fingerposts.

The British Waterways managers seem to have trained in Disneyland. When they get round to labelling this latest scheme, I hope they remember to change "Stairway to heaven" to "Descent into hell".

Yours faithfully,

NANCY EAGLESHAM,

25 Brookdale, New Longton,

Preston, Lancashire.

April 2.

Rail crossing safety

From Mr Douglas Smith

Sir, Were everyone law-abiding and not prey to momentary idiocy the system of half-barriers at unmanned level crossings would probably work as its designers intended. But life is not like that, especially if, as appears from your report, "Three killed as train hits car on crossing" (April 6), you are young and accompanied by companions you seek to impress.

Business letters, page 25
Sports letters, page 34

Surely imaginative engineers could devise a total barrier which, in emergency, would allow exit from the track side by exertion of some pressure but which on no account would permit entry to the track without causing serious damage to the vehicle involved? Apart from saving folk from their own stupidity, British Rail owe it to their train drivers to make foolproof arrangements.

Yours faithfully,

DOUGLAS SMITH,

49 Halls Farm Close,

Winchester, Hampshire.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Designing an 'Oscar' for engineers

From Mr W. L. Wilson, CEng

Sir, The need for an engineering "Oscar" raised by Mr Brian Warnes in his letter of April 2, can be said either to be timely or, even more accurately, very late in the day, in so far as it implies a well publicised exhibition of individual achievements in that field.

Individual learned societies have platforms of their own for honouring individuals and technological triumphs, but these are modest affairs, little observed by the national press. Indeed, I well remember just such a gold medal award to one great engineer, Barnes Wallis, going almost totally unremarked nationally.

I cite an isolated case, but how many of your readers are aware of Wallis's achievements? By the same token, who knows who played the lead engineering roles in the creation of North Sea oil platforms, Rolls-Royce engines, Concorde, QE2, the atomic energy industry, the distribution of natural gas (in five years nationwide), or the Thames Barrier? Anonymity will not bring recruits to a profession on which we all depend nor can nations survive without converting their natural resources effectively for the benefit of mankind. Our current emphasis on the construction of office spaces, shops, leisure centres and museums is hardly a step in that direction.

Yours,

W. L. WILSON,

34 Chestnut Avenue,

Chorleywood, Hertfordshire.

From the President of the Fellowship of Engineering

Sir, Mr Brian Warnes calls for "a sort of engineering Oscar". Such a thing already exists as the Fellowship of Engineering MacRobert Award. Established in 1969 by the MacRobert Trust, it was designed specifically to reward innovation in engineering and over the years many of this country's most famous names in industry have been recognised.

The MacRobert Award is given annually, normally to only one winner, and comprises a gold medal and £25,000. Nearly every year since its foundation the award has been presented by Prince Philip, the Senior Fellow of the Fellowship of Engineering, and a major exhibition is mounted for three months in the entrance to the Science Museum. Since the Fellowship, as the UK's national academy of engineering, took the award under its wing, a lot of extra financial support has been given by both industry and the DTI.

Every year the interest shown by the media in the award is minimal, despite the fact that it is given to people and companies who have not only had a bright idea but have managed to complete the innovative process by achieving real success in the marketplace.

Literacy standards

From Mr N. W. P. Cole

Sir, As one whose work involves recruitment into industry, I read with interest your report (April 8) of the survey which indicated employers believe standards of literacy and numeracy amongst school leavers are slipping.

In my post today I received a letter from a local headteacher, offering the use of his school's facilities. Apart from various grammatical and spelling errors, his letter invited my firm to "loan" his school's video. I do not know whether the concept of borrowing and lending is included in the national curriculum, but if headteachers are unable to master this simple idea, what hope is there for their pupils?

Yours faithfully,

N. W. P. COLE,

Hawthorn Cottage, Cold Norton,

Nr Stone, Staffordshire.

April 8.

Aid for Albania

From Mr Joseph Harmatz

Sir, I was pleased to learn that the British Council has established a resource centre in Tirana (letter, April 6). Your readers may also like to know that ORT, a British-based international training organisation, was requested by USAID, the leading US development aid organisation, to conduct a survey last September of the most urgent needs in terms of education and training in this devastated country, and that in the light of its conclusions we sent out three senior consultants — one American, one Canadian and one

Many of the things that need doing in this country rely first on wealth creation. The MacRobert Award rewards those who make the process happen. I look forward to seeing Oscar-like interest in this autumn's award.

Yours sincerely,

WILLIAM BARLOW, President,

The Fellowship of Engineering,

2 Little Smith Street,

Westminster, SW1.

From Professor Peter Hills, CEng

Sir, The continued separation of our professional engineering institutions allows cracks to exist in what should be a continuum. Solutions to engineering problems and the most desirable consumer durables are frequently based across the full spectrum of mechanical, electrical, electronic and software engineering. The structure of the profession must reflect this spectrum: industrial robots, copiers, motor engine management systems, cameras, computer printers... all these exist in spite of the present diversity, not because of it.

Further cracks can occur between the research funding councils. Even in the Science and Engineering Research Council's far-sighted engineering design initiative the progress made on the more scientific and obviously engineering front is sometimes impeded by an unwillingness for funding committees to venture into supporting market-related research or consideration of the human aspects of the design process and its management.

A belief still exists in many quarters that SERC is all about science and that you go to the ESRC (Economic and Social Research Council) for the human stuff. This is not necessarily the fault of those councils: the members of their funding committees have been appointed from this divided base and may not see the need for a broader, more synthesising approach.

Theodor von Karman, one of the pioneers of jet propulsion, said that "a scientist explores what is, an engineer creates what has never been". Both at the institutional and at the individual levels our engineers must recognise this and lobby (like the scientists do) to ensure a helpful professional structure and a breadth of approach to research funding which reflects the real needs of engineers.

Success would lead to more wealth creation, more exports and less imports. The whole country stands to benefit and so, of course, would we engineers.

Yours faithfully,

PETER HILLS

(SERC engineering design

co-ordinator),

The Design Council,

28 Haymarket, SW1.

April 6.

From Dr Myer Goldman

Sir, I take strong exception to the reported remarks (April 6) of William Reid, the health service ombudsman, who is quoted as saying:

"I still find that the old-fashioned consultant cares not one jot for the feelings of the patient. He is completely self-centred and regards any complaint as a distraction."

Even if every complaint received concerned a different consultant and if every single one was upheld, only a small minority of the total consultant body in this country would be involved.

One valid complaint is one too many, but those dealing with quasi-legal processes should not indulge in sweeping generalisations.

Yours sincerely,

MYER GOLDMAN

(Consultant radiologist),

36 Druids Cross Garden,

Liverpool 18.

April 6.

From Dr Robert Baker

Sir, Has Mr Bird also noticed the proliferation of UICs (Unnecessary Inverted Commas), with their rather curious "effect" on a sentence? As an example, I quote from the window of a local "greengrocer": "We regret that we will be closed on June 6 for the 'wedding' of our 'daughter'."

Yours sincerely,

ROBERT BAKER,

36 Cheriton Place,

Henleaze, Bristol, Avon.

April 6.

From Mr Peter Martin

Sir, The redundant apostrophe is alive and well, as your radio review (April 7) of *Who's Line is it Anyway?* confirmed.

Yours sincerely,

PETER MARTIN,

Purley Bury House,

Lexington Court, Purley, Surrey.

April 7.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

School trips threatened by holiday safeguards

BY DOUGLAS BROOM
LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

A NEW European Community directive on package holidays may undermine town twinning and school exchange visits by placing impossible burdens on organisers, according to a travel industry lawyer.

Under the directive, which comes into force in December, any individual or group arranging a trip that includes at least one night abroad will be treated in the same way as a professional package tour operator.

Organisers will have to lodge with a third party a financial bond big enough to refund all the money paid by those making the trip and to cover the cost of bringing the

whole party back to Britain in an emergency. Failure to do so could lead to criminal charges and unlimited fines. Tim Robinson, a senior partner in the London law firm Nicholson Graham and Jones, which represents leading tour operators and travel firms, said the directive could prevent some schools organising foreign trips. "The principle of providing the maximum protection for the purchaser of a family holiday is laudable," he said. "What has not been properly foreseen is the effect on other groups."

The directive says that anyone who "otherwise than occasionally" organises package trips is covered by the new rules. A package is defined as pre-arranged combination of transport and accommodation sold for an inclusive price.

Mr Robinson said: "If a school, a local council or a chamber of commerce arranges three trips a year to a twin town, who is to say whether that is occasional or not? The courts will have to decide. In the meantime schools and local authorities would be well advised to play safe and take out appropriate insurance, or purchase a bond from a bank or an insurance company. Whichever they choose, the cost of trips will rise."

Although the travel industry would press for exemption for small scale organisers such as schools and councils, the issue might have to be tested in the courts before the law was clarified. Mr Robinson, an authority on travel law, is preparing a paper for the trade and industry department on the implications of the new directive. The department said that the position of schools and councils was being examined and a final decision would be made by the incoming government.

Lucky the punters who followed the advice of *The Times* last week who were recommended to do a double on Party Politics in the Grand National and one of various outcomes in yesterday's poll. The horse did the business at 14-1. Whatever result you combined it with, you will not do worse than a 20-1 payout as the results unfold.

Leading article, page 17

Record bets on election

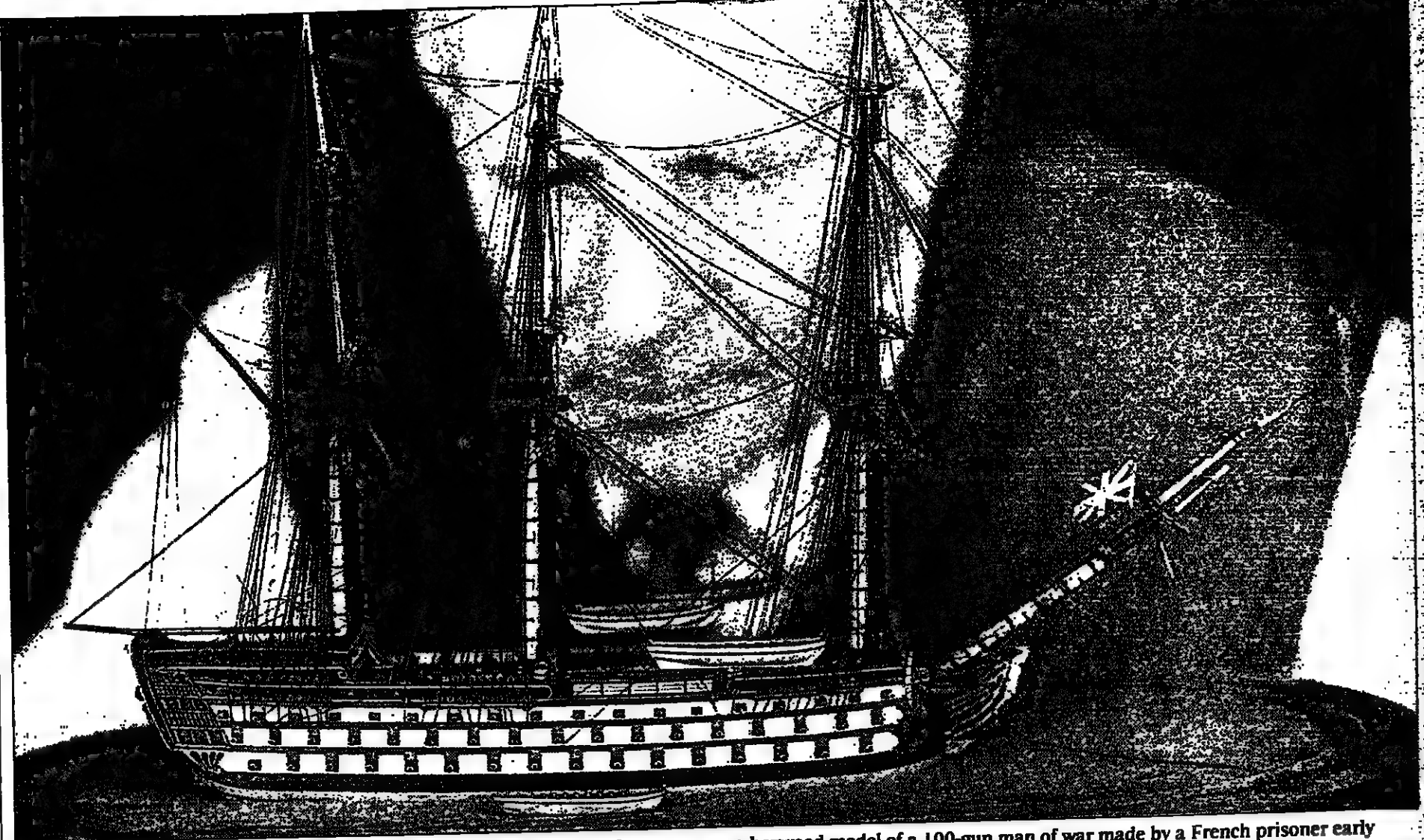
Continued from page 1

the last polls changed the odds. Yesterday morning the Tories were not favourites, but Labour were back as front runners by a neck by 3pm. Two hours later, they had lost their brief lead.

Paddy Ashdown remained at about 250-1 throughout to form the largest party, ending the day at 300-1. One customer in Wembley put £500 on him, which would have produced a profit of £125,000. Another punter has put £5 on the Natural Law Party commanding a simple majority. If there is a late surprise, he will collect £250,000.

Had Screaming Lord Sutch won in all three constituencies of Huntingdon, Islwyn and Yeovil, beating all three party leaders, he would have collected £5 million. He did not.

Lucky the punters who followed the advice of *The Times* last week who were recommended to do a double on Party Politics in the Grand National and one of various outcomes in yesterday's poll. The horse did the business at 14-1. Whatever result you combined it with, you will not do worse than a 20-1 payout as the results unfold.



On watch: Tom Rose, a Christie's director and model expert, casts a keen eye over a boxwood model of a 100-gun man of war made by a French prisoner early last century. The 94in by 13in warship is expected to fetch £15,000-£16,000 at a sale of Titanic and other maritime memorabilia next Tuesday

Poll shows voters prefer coalition

Continued from page 1

that Mr Ashdown would be best. However, only 1 per cent of Tory supporters think that Mr Kinnock would be the best leader of the country. Thirteen per cent of Liberal Democrat backers put Mr Major first and 9 per cent named the Labour leader.

Although the weather was fine in most parts of the country, there were a few hitches in voting procedures in some areas. Electors were forced to use a car box as a polling station in Bishopscote, Bristol, after vandals superglued the locks on the doors at the local voting point. In Lincolnshire two polling stations had to be covered in brown paper because the Tories complained that they had been painted in Labour's colours of red and yellow.

Northern Ireland went to the polls under the shadow of the gun, with thousands of armed police and troops guarding the 582 polling stations against IRA attack. If there is a hung parliament, the Ulster Unionists could hold the balance of power and would be favourites for

an arrangement with the Tories. Although James Molyneux, the Ulster Unionist leader, has said he will make no deals with whichever party forms a minority government, he has said that his party would not wish to inflict another early election on the public without good cause.

Home thoughts, page 2
Poll refugees, page 2
Diary, page 16



Guardian may buy Observer

BY MELINDA WITTSTOCK
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE Guardian and Manchester Evening News group confirmed yesterday that it was interested in buying the *Observer* from Tiny Rowland's Lorrho, which is struggling to reduce its £850 million debt burden.

Pearson, publisher of the *Financial Times*, said it was not interested, and reports that Andrew Whitson Smith, editor of *The Independent*, last week offered Lorrho £16-£18 million for the Sunday newspaper. Neither confirmed nor denied yesterday. Paul Spicer, Lorrho's deputy chairman, refused to comment, as did Mr Whitson Smith.

Mr Rowland, who has always taken a keen personal interest in *The Observer*, was away in South Africa all last week. It is thought that Lorrho would want at least £30 million for the title.

Dublin regrets abortion case

BY EDWARD GORMAN AND TOM WALKER

HARRY Whelehan, the Irish Attorney-General who personally took the decision to seek injunctions preventing a rape victim aged 14 from having an abortion in Britain, said yesterday he regretted the trauma it had caused.

Mr Whelehan, who was in Brussels seeking clarification from EC legal experts on a "solemn declaration" by member states acknowledging the right of Irish women to travel abroad to have abortions and to have access to information on abortion, said he had no doubt he was right to pursue the case.

"The Supreme Court and the High Court all said I had no option but to do that," he said. "In so far as I was doing my duty and had no option, I can have no regrets. As to the trauma it caused to individuals and generally, it is a matter of great regret to me."

The Attorney-General's statement came as Albert Reynolds, the prime minister, named June 18 as the date for the first referendum on the Maastricht treaty. Mr Reynolds had told the *Dail* last night that Mr Whelehan had upheld the constitution

as he was bound to do. If an Attorney-General had turned a blind eye in such circumstances, how could he be trusted in other matters, Mr Reynolds had asked.

Mr Whelehan said his talks in Brussels yesterday had been helpful and positive. After the rejection by the EC of an attempt by Ireland to change its anti-abortion protocol to the Maastricht treaty earlier this week, Dublin has been forced to accept a declaration on the right to travel and to information, despite the fact that it will not be legally binding. The Irish government fears that a campaign by Liberals and by anti-abortionists could defeat the treaty when it is voted on.

The controversy arose after an interpretation of Ireland's constitutional ban on abortion by the Supreme Court last month [which is protected by the protocol to the treaty], which found that the rights of the unborn should take precedence over the right to travel, a view in contravention of EC law.

Mr Reynolds yesterday defended his decision to delay the travel and information

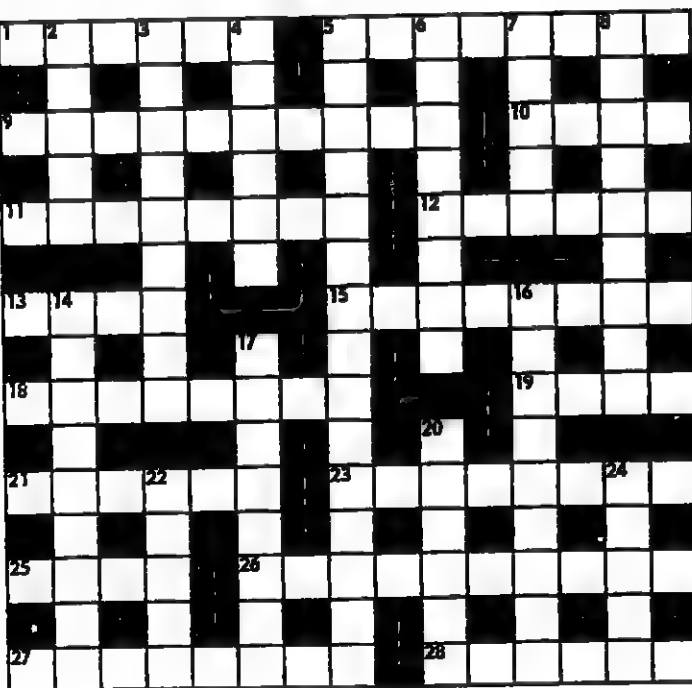
referendum until after Maastricht. Speaking in the *Dail* he attacked what he said were "emotive and outrageous" statements by those attempting to turn the Maastricht referendum into a vote on abortion.

"It is in the interest of this nation and its people, and in our attack on unemployment and in farming and in all the areas down through every sector of this economy, that Maastricht gets a full and open debate," he said.

Opposition to the decision continued last night. The Progressive Democrats, the junior coalition partners, are known to be unhappy at the decision, which has also been attacked by Labour and Fine Gael. Niamh Breathnach, for the Labour party, said as a woman aware of the importance of the role played by the EC in improving women's rights, she wanted to support Maastricht. She said she was worried that the government might renege on its commitment to hold a travel and information referendum at a later date.

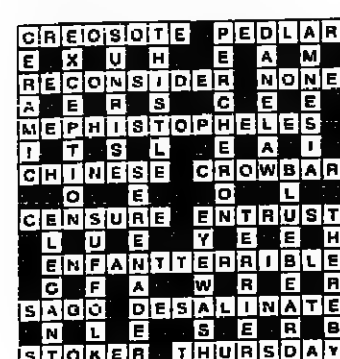
Delors's warning, page 14

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 18,889



- ACROSS**
- Leading policemen advanced quickly in dark (8).
 - Lynx left suffering (8).
 - Am I unable to use bar for support? (10).
 - Indescent slug (4).
 - Generate reforms in youth (8).
 - Loathing getting warm out east (9).
 - Drop charge (4).
 - Tracks are known to the public (2,6).
 - Loser at Yorktown is missing in the south west (8).
 - Clever bishop invested in drink (4).
 - Pickle soft and easy to digest (6).
 - Found where they throw man out, fellow interrupting tranquility (4-1).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,888



- Group of five employed by governor (4).
- One who occupies a leading place as an officer (10).
- Prime beginning to accept law-breaking (8).
- Under a smothered exclamation about jobs (6).
- DOWN
- Brave, not hard and fast (5).
- Sweet little boy, meeting small creature, endlessly beat it (3,3,3).
- Yank overwhelmed by river in flood (6).
- Station's loveliest porter could be... (9,6).
- ... a goddess covering the right underground line (8).
- Mounted group can be thrown (5).
- Incorrigible cold nurse treated (9).
- Sofening me up till one struck (9).
- One that sings very loudly in church after tea (9).
- The chap to work on a scarf (8).
- Phlegm always in the way? On the contrary (6).
- Gorge, taking a breather during speech (5).
- Fit worker into business (5).

Concise Crossword, page 9
Life & Times section

WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which definitions are correct?
By Philip Howard

- METRICIAN**
a. Harlot-like
b. A scholar of Metric
c. A writer of verse
- EXULTATE**
a. To lay eggs
b. To stroll
c. To cross-examine a defendant
- QUINCUNX**
a. Symmetrical arrangement of five
b. Whosoever
c. A warlock
- FIRKIN**
a. A small wooden barrel
b. A pine sapling forest
c. Heeling backwards at Wall Game

Answers on page 18

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code

London & SE	731
C London (within N & S Circs)	732
M ways/roads M4-M1	733
M ways/roads M1-Dartford	734
M ways/roads M25-M4	735
M25 London Orbital only	736
National	737
National motorways	738
West Country	739
Wales	740
Midlands	741
East Anglia	742
North-west England	743
North-east England	744
Scotland	745
Northern Ireland	746

AA Roadwatch is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

Australia S	21.05	19.55
Belgium Fr	61.05	57.50
Canada S	2.19	2.03
Denmark Kr	1.80	1.95
Finland Mk	10.11	9.41
France Fr	2.95	2.75
Germany DM	34.00	32.00
Greece Dr	14.00	13.00
Hong Kong S	1.12	1.05
Ireland P	225.00	210.00
Italy Lira	248	232
Japan Yen	3.36	3.14
Netherlands Gld	11.79	10.99
Norway Kr	255.50	237.50
Portugal Esc	5.40	4.80
Spain Ptas	167.50	174.50
Sweden Kr	2.735	2.555
Switzerland Fr	1140.00	1040.00
Turkey Lira	1.84	1.71
USA S	0.68	0.63
Yugoslavia Dnr	134	140.00

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WEATHER
England and Wales will have a dry and mostly sunny day although patchy cloud is likely in the north. Scotland and Northern Ireland will be mainly cloudy with brief bright or sunny intervals chiefly in the south and east. Northwest and northern parts will be overcast with light rain or drizzle. Outlook: the dry and warm sunny spell in the south will be replaced by much fresher weather with rain or showers from the north.

ABROAD

MONDAY: 1st thunder, drizzle, fog; 2nd sun, sleet, m-snow, f-har, occasional rain

City	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
Aberdeen	7-11	W 14	14	sun
Amsterdam	8-11	W 14	14	sun
Birmingham	7-11	W 14	14	sun
Bombay	28-32	SE 14	14	sun
Boston	4-8	W 14	14	sun
Buenos Aires	18-22	W 14	14	sun
Calcutta	28-32	SE 14	14	sun
Cardiff	7-11	W 14	14	sun
Cebu	28-32	SE 14	14	sun
Copenhagen	7-11	W 14	14	sun
Dublin	7-11	W 14	14	sun
Hankow	28-32	SE 14	14	sun
Hong Kong	28-32	SE 14	14	sun
Kobe	18-22	W 14	14	sun
London	7-11	W 14	14	sun
Lyons	7-11	W 14	14	sun
Manila	28-32	SE 14	14	sun
Medan	28-32	SE 14	14	sun
Moscow	18-22	W 14	14	sun
Mumbai	28-32	SE 14	14	sun
Nairobi	18-22	W 14	14	sun
Osaka	18-22	W 14	14	sun
Paris	7-11	W 14	14	sun
Perth	7-11	W 14	14	sun
Rangoon	28-32	SE 14	14	sun
Reykjavik	7-11	W 14	14	sun
Riyadh	28-32	SE 14	14	sun
Rome	18-22	W 14	14	sun
Salt Lake	18-22	W 14	14	sun
Santo Domingo	18-22	W 14	14	sun
Singapore	28-32	SE 14	14	sun
Sofia	18-22	W 14	14	sun
Stockholm	7-11	W 14	14	sun
Sydney	18-22	W 14	14	sun
Taipei	18-22	W 14	14	sun
Tel Aviv	18-22	W 14	14	sun
Tokyo	18-22	W 14	14	sun
Toronto	7-11	W 14	14	sun
Tunis	18-22	W 14	14	sun
Ulaanbaatar	18-22	W 14	14	sun
Vancouver	7-11	W 14	14	sun
Vladivostok	18-22	W 14	14	sun
Warsaw	18-22	W 14	14	sun
Wellington	18-22	W 14	14	sun
Winnipeg	18-22	W 14	14	sun
Zurich	18-22	W 14	14	sun

Weather figures are latest available

TOURIST RATES

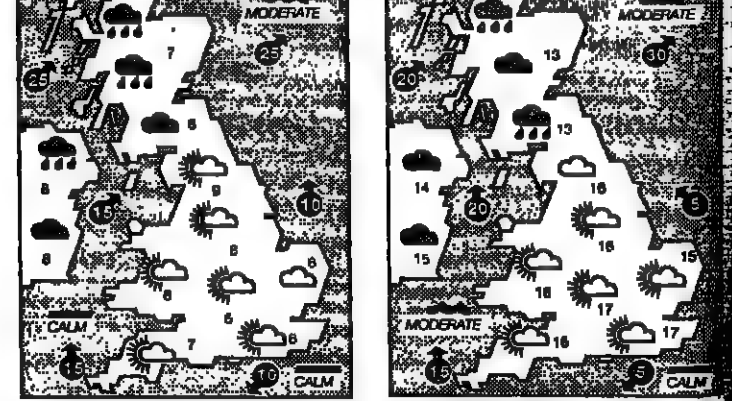
City	Bank	Bank
Australia S	21.05	19.55
Belgium Fr	61.05	57.50
Canada S	2.19	2.03
Denmark Kr	1.80	1.95
Finland Mk	10.11	9.41
France Fr	2.95	2.75
Germany DM	34.00	32.00
Greece Dr	14.00	13.00
Hong Kong S	1.12	1.05
Ireland P	225.00	210.00
Italy Lira	248	232
Japan Yen	3.36	3.14
Netherlands Gld	11.79	10.99
Norway Kr	255.50	237.50
Portugal Esc	5.40	4.80
Spain Ptas	167.50	174.50
Sweden Kr	2.735	2.555
Switzerland Fr	1140.00	1040.00
Turkey Lira	1.84	1.71
USA S	0.68	0.63
Yugoslavia Dnr	134	140.00

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MANCHESTER

Yesterday: Temp: min 6am to 6pm, 17C (63F), max 6pm to 6am, 20C (68F). Rain: 24hr to 6pm, nil. Sun: 24hr to 6pm, 10hr

WEATHER



Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun.

London 7.49 am to 8.13 am
Bristol 7.59 pm to 8.23 am
Birmingham 8.10 pm to 8.17 am
Manchester 8.01 pm to 8.18 am
Penzance 8.09 pm to 8.37 am

Sun rises: 6.16 am
Moon sets: 7.49 pm

First quarter 11.06 am

Lowest day temp: Cardiff, 17C (63F). Lowest day max: Fair Isle, Shetland, 0C (32F). Highest rainfall: Douglas, Isle of Man, 0.31in. Highest sunshine: Kinross, Grampian, 10.4hr.

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TODAY IN BUSINESS

SOUND OF MONEY



Wembley Stadium will host at least 13 pop concerts this year as it rocks back from a poor financial performance. Recession meant exhibitions lost money. Pages 22 and 23

ASSET TEST

Germany's Treuhand privatisation agency has lost DM2 billion to unscrupulous investors. Page 23

REIGN IN SPAIN



Expo '92 in Seville, the largest world fair, has provided a bonanza for British companies even before it opens. Page 22

TOMORROW

PROFILE



Julian Oglvie Thompson, first non-Oppenheim head of three South African companies, explains his successes and laments his one failure.

RESULT REVIEW

Lindsay Cook, Weekend Money Editor, and her team look at the implications of the election result.

THE POUND

US dollar 1.7472 (-0.0033)
German mark 2.8553 (+0.0134)
Exchange index 90.3 (+0.2)
Bank of England official close (April)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 1885.7 (+31.0)
FT-SE 100 2436.4 (+43.2)
New York Dow Jones 3208.86 (+27.50)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 16599.15 (-577.38)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base 10 1/4%
3-month interbank 10 1/2%
3-month eligible bills 10 1/2%
US: Prime Rate 6 1/2%
Federal Funds 3 1/4%
3-month Treasury Bills 3.70-3.68%
30-year bonds 10 1/2%-10 1/4%

CURRENCIES

London: £ \$1.7592
New York: £ \$1.7680
£ DM2.8586
£ DM1.6210
£ Sfr2.6301
£ Sfr1.4875
£ FF9.5854
£ FF5.4810
£ Yen23.25
£ Yen132.25
£ Index 80.3
£ Index 64.5
ECU £0.715877
SDR £0.78334
ECU £1.39688
SDR £1.268497

GOLD

London: AM \$338.45
Close \$338.20-338.70
New York: AM \$338.65-338.15

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (May) \$18.95 bbl (\$19.20)

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 136.3 February (1987=100)
Denotes midday trading price

Tokyo market drops below 16,000

Banks in firing line as Nikkei still plummets

FROM JOANNA PITMAN IN TOKYO

THE collapse of the Nikkei index to below 16,000 gave financial executives a sleepless night as they toiled to work out the impact on their companies. They fear that if the Nikkei continues to hover around or below 17,000-18,000 the effects on Japanese corporations will be serious.

Yoshihisa Kitai, an economist at Long Term Credit Bank, said: "We can tolerate drops to 15,000 or even to 10,000 for a day or two, but if the Nikkei remains below the 17,000 mark for weeks on end, then the financial system is likely to come under considerable strain." The market

showed worrying volatility yesterday, rising by over 300 points during the morning on hopes for a technical rebound, then plummeting in the afternoon to end down 577.38 points at 16,598.15. Arbitrage selling was blamed for the fall.

Economists expect volatility to continue until the end of the first quarter of the fiscal year that began this month. They believe the Bank of Japan and the finance ministry will introduce support measures if the Nikkei has not recovered and moved towards 20,000 by the middle of the fiscal year in September.

Mr Kitai said: "If the authorities' support does not arrive by that stage, then corporate Japan and particularly banks will be in a very serious position." Many market analysts have pointed out that the Bank of Japan's primary concern is with the health of the financial system as a whole and it can easily promote institutional buying to support the market if it feels this is in jeopardy.

In the short term, however, Japan's banks, already seriously hampered by bad debts, are feeling the pinch most acutely. The drop in the Nikkei has come at the wrong time, given that they must meet Bank of International Settlements capital adequacy requirements by next March.

The more the market falls, the slimmer their chances of meeting the BIS requirements. As the Nikkei falls daily, the banks must act now to bolster capital and cut down on asset growth. Many have already issued subordinated debt, which counts as capital under BIS rules. The 11 city banks between them raised ¥2 trillion in subordinated debt during the last fiscal year and will have to raise substantially more to offset the effects of the falling stock market.

But even these enormous cash injections are still dwarfed by the potential write-offs of bad debt. Japanese banks are not obliged to publish figures revealing the extent of their bad or doubtful debt, but analysts' estimates of the combined bad debts of the 11 city banks range up to ¥20 trillion (£87 billion).

Pre-tax and net profits, which take account of stock investment losses and loan write-offs, are expected to be well below forecasts for the 1991 fiscal year. Fuji Bank, for example, has forecast a 74.9 per cent decline in net profits to ¥30 billion.

Wall Street, page 24

Human cost, page 15
Leading article, page 17

Action by Fed gives boost to Wall Street

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK

WALL Street surged after a cautious start yesterday as the Federal Reserve cut interest rates on its funds in what is seen as part of a co-ordinated global effort to bring down rates and boost economic recovery.

The move came within hours of a cut in the Canadian prime rate from 8.25 to 8 per cent, and a cut in Japan is now widely expected. The Dow Jones Industrial Average, which sank to its lowest level for three months on Wednesday, rebounded sharply on the news.

By lunchtime in New York, 138 million shares had changed hands, sending the Dow up 33.10 to 3,214.45, and wiping out a third of the previous two-day 94-point loss. But some market strategists doubt whether the rebound will last if Tokyo continues to plunge.

The plunge in the Nikkei

index sent shivers through Wall Street earlier this week as traders feared the Japanese were selling their American positions to cover losses at home. That belief contributed to sales by large US institutional investors which sent the Dow to its lowest level since January.

But latest government figures show that America's inflation is under control - it gained 0.2 per cent last month. Credit market experts say there will be some delay before the Fed's cheaper money converts into more consumer spending.

They say that the American banks, burdened with problem loans, may delay passing on the lower borrowing rates, which for them fell by 0.25 per cent to 3.75 per cent yesterday.

Shares leap on polling day

BY RODNEY HOBSON AND PHILIP PANGALOS

THE City had a rush of blue blood to its head as investors gambled on the election result long before the polls closed.

Buoyed by hopes of a Conservative victory, buyers pushed the FT-SE100 share index 43.2 points higher to 2,436.4 by the official market close at 4.30pm. It was the biggest gain so far this year, with the market closing at the top. Volume reached 506.2 million shares.

Just as buyers seemed to be losing their nerve, a strong opening on Wall Street sent London prices surging again. Many punters who had sold futures contracts were forced to buy to cover bear positions.

The gains added about £8.6 billion to share values. The FT 30 index rose 31 points to 1,885.7. Gilt gains £% and

sterling held firm during London trading as fears of an interest rate rise receded.

The positive mood strengthened on rumours of exit polls favouring the Conservatives. One story that an exit poll showing a strong swing to the Tories had been conducted by Smith New Court was denied by the broker.

Privatised stocks led the surge, with the electricity package up £93 to £2,453 after hitting £2,523. Among distribution companies, Northern rose by 18p to 258p and East Midlands gained 15p to 237p. Most water shares were at least 10p better. South Western leading the way with a 19p leap to 338p.

Other sectors to find favour were life insurance and brew-

eries. Prudential added 11p to 219p and Legal and General 10p to 335p. Bass was among the day's top shares, with a 21 1/2p gain to 531 1/2p.

ShareLink, Europe's largest execution-only private stockbroker, reported unusually heavy private client activity. Three fifths of deals involved buying, mainly of privatisation and FT-SE stocks. Some equity market-makers provided a near-full service all night others extended trading hours in American depository receipts. Forex dealers operated all night.

A busy London trading session is in prospect today. The Stock Exchange is due to open 30 minutes early. The latest inflation figures are also due.

Market report, page 24

American starts fare war

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT
AIR CORRESPONDENT



Power play: American's Bob Crandall

AMERICAN Airlines, which last year lost more than \$40 million largely because of the downturn in domestic air travel, yesterday attempted to revive business traffic by cutting prices and reducing the number internal fares.

Passengers on many internal routes have been faced with up to a dozen different fares with a variety of restrictions depending on the time they travel. There will now be three fares, with prices 50 per cent lower.

The new fare structure, which cuts through the complex web that developed as airlines tried to meet the needs of small market niches, is initially confined to the North American market. Atlantic and other international routes are likely to benefit from the new structure within the next few months, provided the authorities agree and the experiment is successful.

Bob Crandall, president of American Airlines, said business travellers in America are tired of rising fares and a confusing system. "They have cut back on their travel because they think the system is just too confusing, and because it imposes what they regard as unacceptable conditions," he added.

"In order to get a good fare, many business travellers have been forced to... try to beat the system in ways they regard as ethically unacceptable but economically compelling."

From next week, the three fares will be: first class, which will be 20 to 50 per cent cheaper; Anytime will be 38 per cent cheaper than existing economy-class fares; and PlanAhead, which will require an advanced purchase of up to 21 days. Although not refundable, the tickets can be exchanged for a different flight on payment of \$25.

"It's only fair to ask those who change their itinerary to bear the associated cost," Mr Crandall said.

The initiative by American Airlines, which is the biggest and most powerful airline in the world, will be closely watched by international rivals. Should the system be introduced on international routes - provided the authorities agree - the method of selling air tickets could be changed fundamentally.

Mr Crandall said: "Unfortunately for us, many customers do not believe that air travel is very good value these days and we're out to win back their confidence."

Attali says EC must open up to the east

BY WOLFGANG MIONCHAL

JACQUES Attali, president of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, is urging the European Community to overhaul its common agricultural policy and to allow eastern European countries full access to EC markets.

He said that failure to open up western markets would threaten eastern Europe's economic reform efforts and would have dire political consequences. It could lead to a destabilisation of the young democracies, and even war.

In an interview with *The Times*, on the eve of the European Bank's first annual meeting of governors in Budapest next week, Mr Attali said the EC should arrange a multilateral trade pact to create a genuine common European market that encompasses the whole of eastern Europe, including Russia and the other countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

He singled out agriculture, steel and textiles as three of the most important markets that the EC should open up to eastern Europe. The east would otherwise not have any significant export markets and the region's ability to earn hard currency through exports would be severely diminished.

Mr Attali said that "if the EC regards its CAP, steel and textiles regimes as inflexible and unchangeable, then the result might be frustration and war in eastern Europe, and we must not forget that eastern Europe was twice the size of a world war."

He called for bold measures but conceded that the process faced formidable opposition. "There are some people who actually prefer eastern Europe to suffer from balance of payments deficits, since this is only the result of our dumping of agricultural surpluses," he said. "Instead we must open our markets. Do we really want to regard eastern Europe as a means of financing our own trade surpluses? Or, rather, do we consider that we have a role to play in its development?" He said closed markets would also pose an obstacle to western investment in the east.

Strangulation risk, page 25

St Paul's scheme withdrawn

BY MATTHEW BOND

PATERNOSTER Associates, the consortium made up of Greycoat, Park Tower Realty and Mitsubishi Estate, is expected today to withdraw its controversial scheme to redevelop the area around St Paul's Cathedral.

In February, Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, called in both the Paternoster scheme and a second proposal put forward by Nuclear Electric, owner of an adjoining site. He said at the time: "It is essential the area is developed in a coherent way and to the highest possible standard."

Paternoster Associates and Nuclear Electric will submit a new master proposal for their combined sites.

CBI opts for second audit chief

BY ROSS TIEMAN



Davies: independent

THE Confederation of British Industry has chosen Howard Davies, the Controller of the Audit Commission, to succeed Sir John Banham as its director general.

Although Sir John also came from the Audit Commission, and both men previously worked for McKinsey, the management consultants, Mr Davies said: "I am younger and fitter and slimmer," when asked if he was a John Banham "clone" yesterday.

For a salary believed to be comfortably in excess of the £85,000 a year that he earns at the Audit Commission, the employers' organisation has hired a man with widely respected organisational and analytical skills.

As a scrutineer of local government, Mr Davies has a formidable record. But he has also demonstrated an inde-

pendence, annoying Tory ministers more than once.

His most public achievement in that post was perhaps the compilation of a report which said the community charge would prove an unsatisfactory and over-expensive way to finance local government. But his work was sufficiently robust that in 1990

the government included the NHS in the Audit Commission's remit.

Mr Davies, aged 41, was born the son of a Manchester architect who specialised in pub interiors. He was educated at Manchester Grammar and Oxford, where he studied history and French.

During the first year of his career, at the foreign office, he joined both the Labour party and the Diplomatic Service Association part of the First Division Association, a civil service union. Six months later he quit the service association (and, in consequence, the Labour party) in protest over its policy. "I have never belonged to a political party since," he said.

After a spell in Paris, he took an MSc in management in California, and joined McKinsey, the management consultants, in London. He worked for a variety of indus-

tries before being seconded to the Treasury as special adviser to Nigel Lawson in 1985 and 1986.

Questions about that period are cleverly deflected. "Look at the progress in the British economy during those years and what happened to it after I left," he said.

Mr Davies says his experience has taught him that there are better ways to influence policy making than "lobbing bombs over the wall" from the outside. "I think it is sometimes useful to be the enemy within," he said.

Already he has set himself two goals at the CBI. "It seems to me that the parties are saying the right things about the climate they wish to create for British industry," he said. "Our job is to hold them to it."

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or
Market moves Major
whatever, there'll be
Major market moves

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TEMPUS

Amec stands stronger than its rivals

AMEC must be blessing Costain Group for blurring the trail and revealing horrific losses and property writedowns on Wednesday, for Amec, too, is among that select group of building companies that raised cash in the mini-boom in share prices a year ago only to see those prices tumble.

The actual numbers are less dramatic in Amec's case. The group, which was formed a decade ago by merging Fairclough and William Press, spent the next five years battling against management problems and only thereafter had the confidence to tap the market for cash.

Last March, the group asked shareholders for £110 million on a one-for-four basis at 200p. The shares, 128p in March, yesterday perked up 8p to 146p amid relief that the 1991 figures were not worse.

The company has spent £30 million on acquisitions but the rest of the rights issue money, intended for careful expansion into Europe, remains in the bank to form net cash balances of £76 million. Amec made profits before exceptional of £50.1 million in 1991, down from £63.4 million but a creditable performance assisted by high levels of activity in onshore and offshore mechanical and electrical engineering.

But provisions of £40 million for housebuilding and £20 million on commercial property values left a pre-tax loss of £9.9 million. Amec marginally increased the half-year dividend and is holding the final payment. So another £31.1 million, funded, the company insists, from cash flow, goes out of the door again to those shareholders who put up the rights money.

In assessing the provisions, Amec has taken the sensible, if pessimistic, view that it must trade out its existing stock of housing over the next 12 to 18 months at whatever prices, rather than keeping the cash locked away in the business in the hope of some eventual upturn in the market. The write-offs represent about



Star turn: Sir Brian Wolfson with Michael Jackson who is giving five performances at Wembley

£7,000 to £8,000 per plot to be sold, and compare with about £10 million in both 1990 and 1989.

The dividend payment and cash on acquisitions left cash flow broadly neutral in 1991. The aim is to see half profits from overseas by 1995, against 20 per cent last year, and there is no tearing hurry to spend the cash, although two European possibilities have been identified.

Money in the bank safeguards the group's future through difficult times, but the shares, selling on about 15 times this year's earnings, look to have nowhere to go short-term.

Wembley

THERE was no shock result from Wembley, although the surprise choice of election day for the announcement

may well have prompted a heart or two to flutter. The company had issued a form guide at the time of its £37 million rights issue in January, and this time it proved accurate.

A pre-tax loss of £8.37 million, compared with the £13.2 million profit recorded in 1990, fell comfortably within the £8.5 million loss forecasted in January. The board is keeping its dividend promise with a 0.9p final payment that makes 1.8p for the year, against 2.4p.

If the odd eyebrow were raised, it would have been in response to the strength of the conviction of Sir Brian Wolfson, the chairman, as to the group's performance in the current year.

Although Sir Brian has tended to err on the side of optimism on occasion, there is no doubting Wembley's

potential. For instance, Michael Jackson will appear five times at the stadium this summer — more dates than the entire 1991 pop concert programme — and should help restore the venue management division to profits growth.

So should the doubling of live race dates at Denver's Mile High greyhound track, and the UK Budget's reduction in betting levy. Progress will be hampered, however, by poor, if improved, bookings for conferences and exhibitions.

Better news will be sought as well from the dicketing operations, reorganised and back in profit at the cost of a £3.2 million write-off last year, and from the Guild video distribution business, off to an "excellent" start thanks to record sales of Terminator 2, and with

Michael Douglas's Basic Instinct to come in May.

Wembley continues slowly to unwind its debt, down to 65 per cent of shareholder funds at the year-end, and, destined, Sir Brian confirms, for below 55 per cent. Bank support is assured, although evidently with the promise that no more paper is issued in the near future.

Profits of £12.5 million still look a reasonable goal for Wembley this year, to net earnings of some 3p a share. An 11.7 multiple at 35p looks high enough, at least until we know the half-time score.

Whatman

WHATMAN'S otherwise impressive eight-year earnings record came to an end in the year to December when pre-tax profits fell from £11 million to £9.21 million.

Trading margins on a turnover of £49.6 million (£44.6 million) were shaved from 23 to 19.3 per cent. The year's dividend rises from 7.75p to 8.7p a share, and Whatman plainly states that dividends will increase steadily.

The profits and margin setbacks, coupled with evidence that sales grew by 8 per cent at constant exchange rates rather than by 11 per cent, marginally dampened analysts' enthusiasm for the shares, which some say have long looked well ahead of events.

Whatman says of the 1991 setback that higher research and development spending — which had been well signalled — knocked at least two points off net margins, and that the recession must also take some of the blame.

A new specialised paper-making machine absorbed £2 million in capital expenditure, and there will be a further £2 million cost this year. The thrust to get new products into the laboratories of the world has also been a cost factor, but the increased spending on marketing appears to be paying off, and in the longer term should prove to have been very worthwhile.

Whatman yesterday made a \$590,000 acquisition of a laboratory gas generator business involving the generation of pure hydrogen gas that should do away with the need to store hazardous gas cylinders. Whatman has great hopes about market potential, and believes the deal will mean a substantial boost to its gas purification division.

The years of receiving net interest appear to be over, though even after a £378,000 interest charge in 1991 gearing remains a modest 5 per cent. While an overall 24 per cent pre-tax return on capital employed is not to be sneezed at during a recession, stronger margins are needed before the peak profits of £11 million seen in 1990 are likely to be challenged.

This year, a pre-tax result around £10 million would not surprise. But at 423p on 15.6 times earnings, the shares are for holding rather than chasing.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Heron tries to settle bondholders' nerves

HERON International, Gerald Ronson's debt-laden property to car dealing group, moved to settle the nerves of holders of its £450 million of bonds by promising detailed financial information next week about the state of the company. Bondholders have been unsettled by the technical defaults on seven of the eleven outstanding bonds triggered by bank debt rescheduling talks. There have been some complaints that bondholders have been left in the dark.

Heron said that a memorandum containing all the key relevant information given to the banks would be sent next week to the fiscal paying agents of all 11 bond issues. The news seems to have stabilised the market in Heron's six Swiss franc bonds after earlier sharp price falls. Heron has £1.3 billion of debt, including £950 million of bank debt.

Norish improves

PROFITS are up at Norish, the Irish cold storage group, in spite of a substantially lower turnover. The year that ended last December produced pre-tax profits of 16c2.2 million (£2.05 million) against 16c1.5 million previously. Turnover was 16c13.6 million (16c21.1 million), which reflects the sale of the distribution operations. Earnings per share are up from 12.3 1p pence to 17.1 1p pence, and shareholders collect a 7 1p pence final dividend, giving them an unchanged 11.47 1p pence total for the year. The group says that the results reflect improvement in its performance, with occupancies and activity remaining high in all areas.

Dixons makes US move

TONY Dignum is stepping down as financial director of Dixons, the high street electrical retailer, to devote more time to the group's loss-making American operations. He hands over to Robert Shrager, group corporate finance director. Mr Dignum was appointed financial director of Dixons Retail Group in January. Dixons has had a rough ride in America since it acquired the Siro retail chain for £240 million in 1987. Losses in the six months to December soared from £2.3 million to £10.9 million. Mr Dignum was president of Siro before returning to Britain. He will report to John Clare, group managing director of Dixons.

Record for Rathbone

RATHBONE Brothers, the private banking and financial services group, which is quoted on the Unlisted Securities Market, reports that pre-tax profits for last year rose 22 per cent to a record £3.1 million. A final dividend of 7.5p makes 10p (8p). Earnings per share increased from 22.1p to 26.6p. Oliver Stanley, the chairman, said that a move to a full quotation could well be in the interests of the group. The purchase of the Framlington private-client fund management business and the recruitment of five fund managers in Liverpool should boost revenues this year. Rathbone paid up to £3.5 million for the Framlington buy.

Textiles curb Beckman

A SLUMP in profits from the textiles division has pushed down interim pre-tax profits at A Beckman from £686,000 to £556,000 for the half year to end-December. Profits from textiles fell from £353,000 to £175,000, but the company said that there was some indication of "slightly increased activity by customers". The property division increased its profits to £574,000 following rent increases agreed in the previous financial year. The interim dividend is being held at 1.63p. Group turnover for the six-month period fell from £6.7 million to £5.8 million.

Finance chief for Kingfisher

By JON ASHWORTH

KINGFISHER, the Woolworth & B&Q group, has ended its four-month search to find a finance director to replace Archie Norman, who left to become chief executive of Asda in December.

His successor is James Kerr-Muir, aged 51, previously managing director of Tate & Lyle's UK division. He had been tipped to become chief executive at Tate & Lyle last year but lost to Stephen Brown, former head of American operations. Kingfisher shares rose 15p on the news of the appointment and positive comments on the retailing sector by County NatWest.

Mr Kerr-Muir spent 22 years at Tate & Lyle, including a spell in the Eighties as vice-president, finance, with Redpath Industries, the group's Canadian arm.

He studied at Harvard Business School with Geoffrey Mulcahy, Kingfisher chairman and chief executive, and they have remained in touch.

Chemicals sector investing less

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

CAPITAL investment by the chemical industry, one of the few industries in which Britain is a world-class performer, fell 13 per cent last year and is set to contract by a further 10 per cent this year. Companies have decided to cancel and postpone projects because the prolonged recession has caused weakness in demand, lack of cash flow and economic uncertainties, according to the Chemical Industries Association.

However, the industry's UK investments this year, at £1.76 billion, will continue to account for 31 per cent of all worldwide spending by companies operating in Britain. The overall cutbacks also conceal a shift towards increased spending on research and development, especially for pharmaceutical companies.

The trends were revealed by the association's twenty-seventh annual investment intentions survey, one of the most reliable guides to trends

in the industry. The survey is especially important because the industry is highly capital intensive, with long lead times for projects.

The association found that the downwards trend in investment spending was likely to be temporarily arrested in 1993, only to resume its decline in 1994. However, the association said that expectations for the third year of the survey were usually weaker because forecasting was more difficult.

In adjusting their spending, companies appear to be responding to a complex variety of pressures. Spending on petrochemicals and plastics, which last year took up the biggest share of investment, is set to fall, partly under pressure of persistent overcapacity in western Europe.

It will be replaced at the top of the investment table by pharmaceuticals, a sub-sector in which Britain is especially strong.

Harland Simon arm for sale

By MARTIN BARROW

HARLAND Simon, a maker of process control and image processing equipment, is negotiating the disposal of its mechanical engineering operations to concentrate on electricals and electronics. Talks are taking place with several potential buyers.

The company launched a strategic review after David Mahony was appointed chairman in February. It says potential disposals could realise "well in excess of their collective book value". The shares rose 6p to 85p.

The company said a potential purchaser had signed a letter of intent to acquire Vickers, which designs and makes equipment for the paper and water industries.

In February, Harland Simon gave warning that pre-tax profits for the year to March 31 would fall significantly below the £10.48 million it earned last time. That triggered a 55 per cent fall in its share price. The final dividend is held at 5.5p.

UK firms light a beacon at Expo

FROM EDWARD OWEN IN SEVILLE

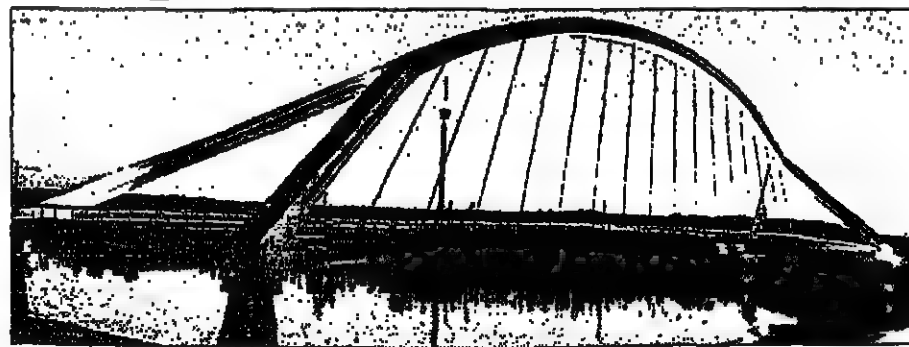
BRITAIN has already scored notable successes at Expo 92, the largest-ever world fair, which opens in Seville on April 20 and will run for six months.

The budget for the British pavilion is £28 million from the government and £5.1 million from almost 50 sponsors.

In addition, about 50 British companies are working on 30 other Expo sites, with contracts worth more than £20 million.

The British pavilion was one of the few that were finished in time for the official press preview this week. Most of the other 95 pavilions on the 215-hectare site were still negotiating an obstacle race to the opening.

The Expo's Spanish organisers are so pleased with Britain's gleaming, steel-and-glass building — which dominates one end of the European Boulevard and features a wall of cascading water — that they have asked for its lights to be kept on all night. Britain has been involved with many other attractions at the Expo, which is expected to draw 18 million visitors.



Crossing point: Barqueta bridge, one of several built specially for Expo

British Steel provided 1,000 tons of steel for the British pavilion, 3,500 tons for the Alamillo Bridge, one of Expo's landmarks, and 17,000 tons of rail for a new high-speed train link between Madrid and Seville.

Melville Exhibitions, of Wandsworth, south London, and Carlton Interiors, of Epsom, Surrey, both parts of the Carlton Beck Group, won contracts worth more than £7.5 million with features in the environment section of the pavilion devoted to the theme of the future, as well as the Andalusian region exhibit.

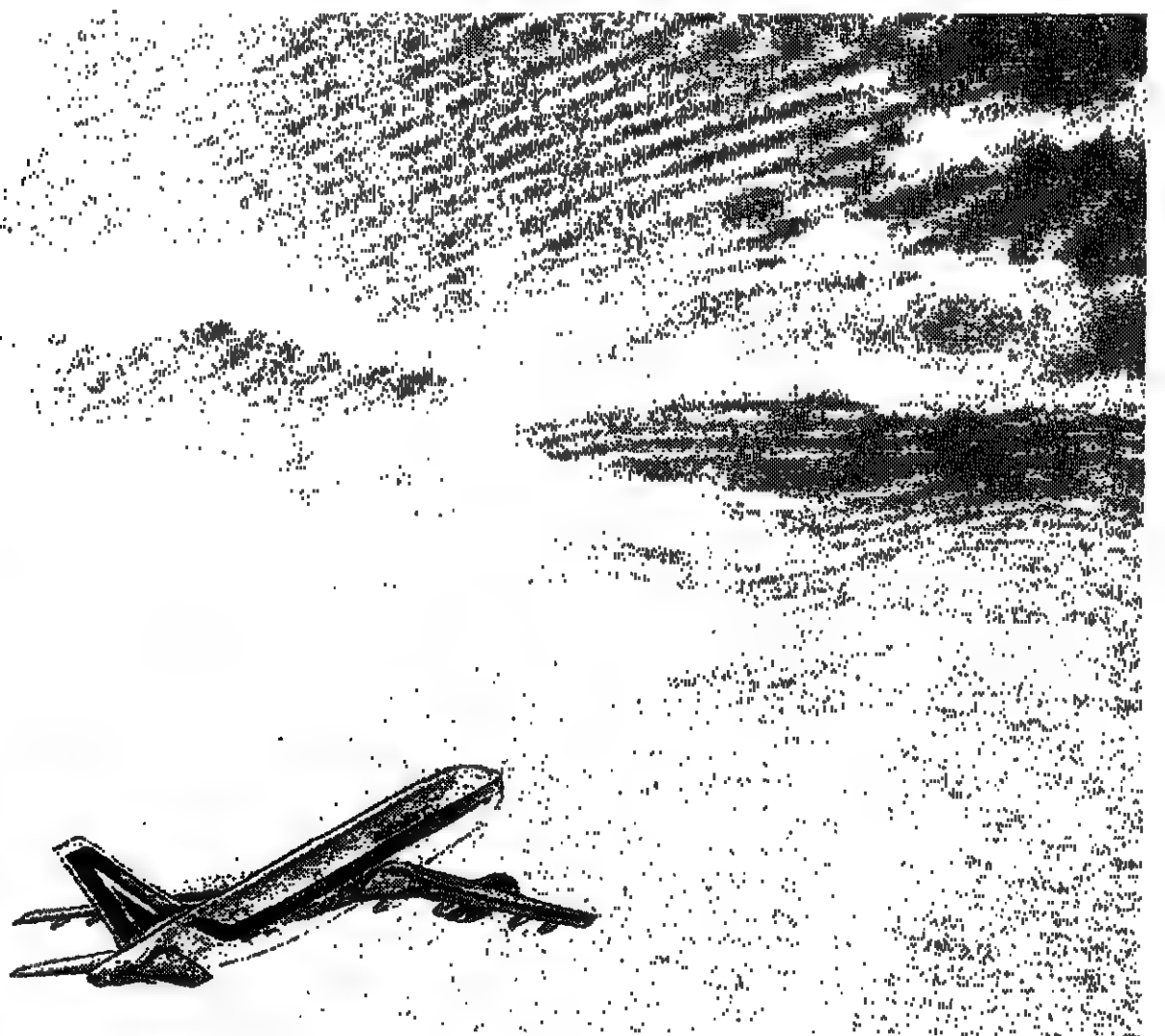
Britain appointed a commercial consul in Seville spe-

cially for the Expo. He is Joe Cooper, who helped to attract Silver Knight, of London, another interior design consultant, to the show. The firm gained contracts worth more than £4 million. "We hope this is just the start," Mr Cooper said. "The new infrastructure in Andalusia for Expo should attract a lot of new business here afterwards."

Fitch RS, of London, received a \$15 million contract for the Saudi Arabian display. Imagination, a west London design and communications business, will need a great deal of that to complete the European Community's waterlogged semi-basement.

Electrosonic, of Dartford, Kent, is supplying more than 35 pavilions with equipment worth £6 million, including one of the world's largest video walls.

A total of 850 monitors, compared with 288 in the British show, are featured in Spanish Telecom's pavilion. "I have not had any indication that a change of government could change the role of Britain at Expo," said Sir John Ure, UK commissioner. He emphasised the international networking benefits and "Rolls-Royce treatment" available for UK business people and their guests in the London Docklands VIP suite in the pavilion's penthouse.



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Bundesbank urges EC to try harder in convergence test

By Wolfgang Münchall, European Business Correspondent

THE Bundesbank has issued a warning that the European Community is in danger of failing to move towards the tough economic convergence tests agreed at the Maastricht summit.

Germany's central bank singled out its own nation as one of those that on last year's performance would have failed to meet the targets for the introduction of the single currency, which had been put in the treaty at the insistence of the Bonn government.

There was further bad news for the German economy yesterday, when public service employers turned down a 5.4 per cent wage deal recommended by arbitrators.

Their rejection of the offer,

which includes a series of one-off payments, increases the likelihood of a full public sector strike. The interior ministry said the offer did not take into account general economic conditions "and thus cannot be a base for a solution to the conflict".

The employers had offered a pay rise of 3.5 per cent, while the unions demanded 9.5 per cent. The ÖTV public sector union said Germany would now have to face up to one of the toughest strikes in the country's history.

The Bundesbank said in its 1991 annual report that only three countries would meet the economic convergence test: France, Denmark and Luxembourg. Under the Ma-

astricht treaty, at least six countries need to meet these standards if the single currency is to be introduced by 1997, the earlier date.

The two most crucial Maastricht tests require budget deficits of less than 3 per cent of gross domestic product, and a rate of inflation no higher than 1.5 per cent above the average inflation rate achieved by the three countries with the lowest rate.

Germany, once a bulwark of economic soundness, failed to meet the budget deficit target last year, but just managed to meet the inflation target with an average inflation rate of 3.5 per cent.

Germany will probably fail on both counts.

"A detailed review of the economic situation in the Community makes it clear what sort of additional efforts have to be expected on the part of some member states," the Bundesbank said, while falling short of naming particular countries. "The Community is still quite a long way away from the price stability which the treaty sees as a primary goal of monetary policy."

However, the Bundesbank was optimistic about the mark. The report said there was "evidence of confidence in the mark's ability to retain its value and in the price stability-oriented policy of the Bundesbank". The central bank said this had led to a reduced risk premium on long-term interest rates.

The report said recovery in eastern Germany was gathering pace, but predicted that taxes may have to rise again if spending was not reined in. "East Germany will remain dependent on help from the west for longer than originally expected."

Comment, page 25

Fraud in east costs Treuhand DM2bn

By Our European Business Correspondent

THE weakness of the eastern German privatisation system was exposed yesterday, when the Treuhand agency admitted a loss of DM2 billion from fraudsters who capitalised on the area's economic misery.

The Treuhand, handling the east's privatisation programme, filed 150 criminal charges against unscrupulous asset strippers who bought eastern German companies cheaply, then immediately closed them and sold off land and other assets.

State prosecutors are investigating 50 cases, and the Treuhand has launched preliminary enquiries into another 200.

The agency said it lacked the staff to conduct proper investigations, while the pro-

secutor's office is faced with a similar situation. So far, only one case has been brought to trial.

The Treuhand's admission will increase the pressure on the agency, which has been heavily and widely criticised, to slow down the pace of privatisation and adopt a policy that would see restructuring take place first.

Prosecutors had also investigated fraud and corruption within the Treuhand itself, after senior managers were forced to quit over allegations that they sold off assets cheaply for their own benefit.

The increasing number of incidents involving fraud and corruption highlights the difficulties of a system that has pursued a policy of rapid privatisation.



Generating hopes: Jim Cole, chief executive of Dowling & Mills, the Midlands electrical and mechanical engineer, reported interim pre-tax profits for the half year to end December of £3.7 million, a fall of 23 per cent on sales of £38 million.

The company, which last November failed in an £18

million takeover bid for Torday & Carlisle, has written off the £632,000 cost of the bid as an extraordinary item. The cost is almost identical to that incurred by Torday in fighting off its unwelcome suitor, Dowling still has a 9 per cent stake in Torday.

Peter Hollings, chairman, said that trading remained

"very difficult and uncertain." But when the upturn came "the company with its strong balance sheet and unique spread of service activities, is well placed to continue its long record of growth."

The interim dividend of 0.92p is a 5 per cent improvement on last time.

Terminator comes to Wembley's aid

By Michael Tate, City Editor

MICHAEL Jackson's five appearances at Wembley Stadium in August, and the record-breaking sales of the Terminator 2 video, have helped convince Sir Brian Wolfson that the Wembley leisure group he chairs will make a significant profit recovery this year.

Sir Brian confirmed yesterday that 1991 had returned a loss of £8.37 million, against the £8.5 million forecast that accompanied January's £37 million rights issue, and a 1990 profit of £13.2 million. He identifies strong improvements in the stadium and video businesses as good reasons to expect a substantial upturn in the group's performance this year.

Wembley will stage a record 13 pop concerts this summer, compared with three last year when the war in the Gulf tore up the diary. Earning up to an estimated £400,000 a day, concerts are a key element of the group's venue management division, whose trading profits dipped from £16.4 million to £13.7 million last year.

Terminator 2 has set a cracking pace in video sales this year after a particularly disappointing final quarter to 1991, when there was an absence of blockbuster films on release. Next month Wembley's Guild video distribution business will add Basic Instinct, the American box

office hit starring Michael Douglas, to its video catalogue.

The upturn could not come too soon for Wembley, which had to turn to its shareholders for more cash in January, while patching up its balance sheet after gearing had rocketed alarmingly.

Debt is now being brought under control, with gearing down to 65 per cent and Sir Brian is intent on getting it below 55 per cent by the end of the year. The group's interest bill for 1991 was £18.7 million, which completely wiped out the operating profit.

Exceptional provisions of £7.47 million, including the £3.2 million cost of rationalising the American ticket activities, and a £3.5 million write-down of its investments, sent the group deep into the red.

As promised the final dividend is 0.9p, lifting the total to 1.8p, against 2.4p.

Wembley's ticket systems operation, the world's biggest, returned to trading profit, with its 50 per cent owned ticket sales business making a good start to 1992.

Meanwhile, legislation in both America, where Denver is doubling the number of its live race dates, and the UK, where the betting levy is being reduced, promise an advance in profits.

Tempos, page 22

Hafnia falls to a bid

By Our European Business Correspondent

A DARING attempt by Hafnia, a Danish insurance company, to force its rivals into a pan-Scandinavian insurance grouping backfired yesterday when it succumbed to a full-blown takeover bid by Forsikrings AB Skandia, the Swedish insurer.

The launch of the SwK2.4 billion (£230 million) all-share takeover bid for Hafnia, ending month-long speculation about a co-opera-

tion deal in the Nordic insurance sector, Hafnia's fortunes have turned for the worse since last November when it stalked Skandia by taking a 14.8 per cent stake. Separately, UNI Storebrand, the Norwegian insurer, took a stake of 28 per cent in Skandia.

But Skandia, the largest of the three, rejected an alliance and refused board representation to the new shareholders.

Ironically, it was the dismal performance of Skandia shares which brought Hafnia to the brink. The whole sector has been in difficulties, with Skandia announcing last week a 1991 operating loss of SwK580 million.

Hafnia yesterday announced a net loss of DKr1.31 billion (£120 million), and the resignation of Per Villum Hansen, the chief executive, and Henrik Klæbel, his deputy.

Skandia, whose shares were suspended at SwK130 yesterday morning, is offering nine shares for every four Hafnia A shares, and nine shares for every five B shares.

The combined premium income of the group will amount to SwK40 billion.

Britannia passes dividend

Britannia Group, the property and housebuilding firm, has passed its final dividend for last year after a £775,000 provision for the falling value of land and a £325,000 reorganisation cost pushed it into a £690,000 pre-tax loss. The company made a pre-tax profit of £631,000 last time after provisions of £1.2 million and paid a total dividend of 3p. Christopher Powell, chairman, said there would be no final dividend. An interim of 1p has been paid.

Morrell aboard
Lunrho, whose newspaper and magazine interests remain the subject of widespread speculation as it continues to make asset sales to reduce debt, has appointed Nicholas Morrell to its board. Mr Morrell was appointed managing director of the Observer in 1988.

Amgold rises
Amgold's net income for the year ended March rose 32 per cent to £235.5 million (£46.9 million). A final dividend of 500 cents, makes 975 cents (775 cents). Anaxim is paying a final of 310 cents, making 382 cents (380 cents).

Parambe falls
Parambe's pre-tax profits fell from £112,308 to £65,933 last year. The final dividend is cut from 1p to 0.55p, making 1.1p (1.55p).

Brussels creates VAT network

From Tom Walker in Brussels

THE European Commission will spend more than £6 million setting up a Community-wide VAT computer network in time for the barrier-free market of 1993. With all paperwork at frontiers - between 50 and 60 million documents a year - due to disappear from January 1, Christiane Scrivener, the tax commissioner, said cross-border VAT payments would be monitored through a "VAT Information Exchange System", or Vies.

The Commission has signed a contract with SOF-X Marben Group, a Franco-Belgian software company, which will work with NCR and Interpac in setting up the system. From next year, all inter-business cross-border acquisitions will be subject to VAT in the country of purchase, rather than the country of origin. A company



selling a product to a business customer in another EC country will tap into Vies. The customer is VAT-registered, and dispatch the goods. The buyer will have to declare the purchase on his periodic VAT return. At the moment, all cross-border deliveries are accompanied by a single administrative document (Sad), that

has about 50 boxes to be filled in and checked by customs officers. For the first time, hospitals, schools and local authorities buying items worth more than 10,000 euros (£7,200) in another country will be required to register for VAT and use Vies.

Individuals, on the other hand, will pay VAT in the country of origin, although there will be exemptions for cars and mail-order companies. A Briton could therefore, still buy a car in Belgium, VAT-free, and pay the tax on return.

Vies will be operating by the beginning of November, to give traders time to prepare for the July 1, 1993, deadline for making their first VAT declarations. A Commission official said Vies will not make sensitive company information available to suppliers and rivals. "Traders will get a straight 'yes' or 'no' answer from the system, nothing more."

Goldman cleared on Maxwell deals

By Our City Staff

GOLDMAN Sachs, the Wall Street investment bank that was criticised for its dealings in Maxwell Communication Corporation shares in 1990 and 1991, has been cleared by a London Stock Exchange working party.

Goldman Sachs was accused of effectively operating a support operation for MCC shares by buying put options from Robert Maxwell. Maxwell sold Goldman two put

options, of 15 million and 30 million MCC shares, between August 1990 and February 1991. Exercise prices were at a premium to the then market level.

Some market-makers saw this as an inducement for Goldman to buy and hold the shares. However, a Stock Exchange statement yesterday said that "the working party found no evidence to support speculation that there had

been a breach of Stock Exchange rules or that there had been some form of illegal share support operation by Goldman Sachs".

Under company law, Goldman was exempted from disclosure requirements for holding more than 3 per cent of a stock when the shares were held for market-making. There was no evidence to support disciplinary action against Goldman Sachs.

Lloyd's wins pollution case

By Jonathan Prynn

THE Lloyd's insurance market has won a "very significant" court case in America over the \$100 million cost of cleaning up a chemical manufacturing site in New Jersey. The site was contaminated with dioxin, used under the name Agent Orange as a defoliant in the Vietnam war.

The judgment, delivered after three years of legal wrangling, is seen as Lloyd's as an important victory and a possible turning-point. For years, the market has picked up the bills for polluters in America. Leonard Sheft, the lawyer who acted for Lloyd's, said the judgment was particularly welcome because it involved Diamond Shamrock, a high-profile company, and because New Jersey courts had a reputation for finding against insurers.

As well as clean-up costs, Diamond Shamrock claimed for compensation payments it had made to Vietnam veterans suffering disability through exposure to Agent Orange during combat.

In the original court case in 1989, a New Jersey judge found that the insurers were not responsible for clean-up costs but were liable for the Agent Orange claims. The New Jersey appeal court has confirmed the clean-up costs judgment and overturned the decision on the Agent Orange claims. Diamond Shamrock is considering an appeal to the Supreme Court. Lloyd's would have had substantial exposure to the clean-up costs

as it was the major reinsurer of Diamond Shamrock's direct insurers. The lead underwriter was Richard Youell, of Janson Green.

However, most such cases have gone against insurers. Earlier this week, David Coleridge, chairman of Lloyd's, spoke of "the apparent determination of the courts in some countries to bend over backwards, sometimes interpreting insurance wordings in bizarre ways, to reach the perceived deep pockets of insurers."

The total cost of cleaning up pollution in America is estimated at hundreds of billions of dollars.



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Property slump forces Amec into the red

By Martin Waller



Tough time: Alan Cockshaw sees no upturn

THE need to provide for falling land and commercial property values has meant losses for 1991 at Amec, the engineering and construction group.

The group produced a £9.9 million deficit before tax (£63.4 million profit), but a maintained final dividend of 6.25p means a total of 10.25p (10.125p). The loss comes after a £60 million exceptional item to cover write-offs on housebuilding and property.

Alan Cockshaw, the chairman, said: "Our view is it won't improve in the short term. We think it's going to be very rough indeed and not just in the UK. We don't see any recovery in the US until the last quarter at least."

Amec had at least the ad-

vantage of cash in the bank, after a £110 million rights issue a year ago, said Mr Cockshaw, and cash balances were £76 million at the year end. The main drain on the group in 1991 was housing and property, where a £700,000 loss in 1990 became an £11.3 million deficit last year. Amec sold 1,300 units at an average of £90,000 and expects this to fall to £85,000 this year. A £40 million write-off has been required for housing land.

Amec has been shifting emphasis towards the less badly hit northern housing market but still has a 30 to 40 per cent exposure to the South East. Mr Cockshaw said Amec did see an excellent performance from the process and energy sector

and the heavy mechanical, electrical and civil engineering companies. Despite this the building and civil engineering side saw profits slip to £24.2 million (£30.3 million), while mechanical and electrical engineering fell £5 million to £33.6 million.

"Although we are clearly disappointed by the decline in overall profitability, this is a good performance in the face of the worst recession our industry has experienced for 50 years," he said.

Amec will be little affected by the coming to power of either a Labour or a Conservative government. "As far as our businesses are concerned, the effects historically have been broadly neutral."

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A court case against Cambridgeshire County Council over a land deal, due to be heard in July, could materially affect the group's affairs.


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COMMENT

Brooding at the Bundesbank

Germany's unification costs seem destined to last much longer than originally envisaged. Countries in the ERM that are being held back by having to share that burden through high interest rates can therefore expect little early relief. The Bundesbank's annual report is full of fastidious nit-picking about wages, public spending and budgetary deficits, all of which are beyond the purview of the monetary burghers of Frankfurt. Western Germans should make sacrifices because the east will need more public and private transfers over a longer period than expected. The only thing saving the mark, the Bundesbank implied, was its own tough stance on interest rates and inflation.

Some ears seem to have been closed even before the Bundesbank spoke. Theo Waigel, Germany's finance minister, has responded to the government's poor showing in regional elections by insisting that no tax increases are required. The largest public sector union is already winding itself up for a strike after employers rejected the judgment of arbiters. They suggested 5.4 per cent, plus the sort of extras familiar from Britain's Seventies social compact, which is in line with other recent settlements but outside the Bundesbank guideline of keeping within inflation. Germany is an embarrassment to the Bundesbank. Helmut Schlesinger, its president, seems miffed at not being in a position to lecture the rest of Europe about its need to take action to meet the Maastricht convergence tests for economic and monetary union, which Germany insisted on putting into the treaty. Germany itself is clearly not meeting them.

Thus far, the Bundesbank seems confident that inflation, which has reached 4.7 per cent, will come back below 4 per cent by the end of the year. This seems to depend, however, on keeping the Lombard rate at 9.75 per cent. Wage and borrowing pressures argue against any short-term cuts in inflation is to subside. The economy shrank sufficiently in the second half of last year to make further substantive rate rises dangerous, prolonging the agony in the east. How far that agony is due to the ill-judged rush to privatisation and incompetent handling of many routine sales can only be guessed. The rest of Europe may, however, be paying a high price for the Treuhänder experiment.

Springtime at BAe

Yesterday's acquisition from Astra Holdings' receiver, which builds on existing business with Oerlikon of Switzerland, is a minor matter for British Aerospace, but another signal that the group is regaining its confidence. Over the past two months, the group has won a series of Ministry of Defence orders for missiles and aircraft that indicate it will not immediately have to pay the nation's peace dividend. John Major's weekend announcement that Saudi Arabia had decided to go ahead with a further £1.5 billion tranche of the Al Yamamah programme, though premature in terms of orders, should resolve another medium-term anxiety.

British Aerospace shares, a strong feature of daytime trading yesterday, still stand at less than half their market value a year ago but have climbed a fifth from their February low point. The pace of reassessment could well accelerate. At the end of the month, BAe holds its annual meeting and Sir Graham Day, its vigorous if temporary chairman, is likely to choose that occasion to announce his own successor as well as a replacement for Dudley Eustace as finance director. The future is becoming clearer. Since BAe shares yield a 10.4 per cent dividend, there is clearly still plenty of scope for investors' confidence to recover too.

Jacques Attali tells Wolfgang Münchau that mechanisms such as the CAP must be reformed if the new free markets of the east are to survive

East Europeans must be wondering whether the invisible hand of the free market is about to turn into an iron fist, according to a survey published this week by the Commission for Europe.

An affiliate of the United Nations and one of the most respected institutions in its field, the commission's report gives one of the most damning verdicts on eastern Europe's economic reform so far. It leaves no doubt that eastern Europe's first experience of democracy has included a depression on the scale of the Thirties with all the political ramifications. "Once filled with hope," the authors suggest, "the countries in transition have increasingly become an area of disillusion, anxiety and social-political tensions."

Jacques Attali, president of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, used to warn against treating the subject of eastern Europe with too much doom and gloom. But the commission's assertion that the economic and political situation in eastern Europe is fraught with acute dangers, for the east and the west, is one that M Attali endorses without hesitation.

In an interview with *The Times*, ahead of the European Bank's first annual meeting of governors in Budapest next week, M Attali argued that the west must no longer duck the central issues, or it will risk a derailing of the reform process. These central issues are similar in many ways to those under discussion at the stalled Gatt trade negotiations in Geneva: western European protectionism and the economic hazards resulting from the common agricultural policy. If west Europe does not open up, he said, east Europe will not have a market worth exporting to, and we will be throwing bad money after good.

"That is why the G7 summit in Munich is so absolutely vital because it is the last window of opportunity to make decisions on trade, on soft loans, on new money to finance restructuring and on Gatt. The tragedy is that governments in Europe and the US are in an election year," he said.

M Attali wants a multilateral trade pact, one which extends far beyond the type of loose association agreements which have already been negotiated with some countries. Such a pact should be created with a free and a common market in mind, to cover the whole of Europe, including Russia and the rest of the newly formed Commonwealth of



Helping hand: Jacques Attali says the west must open up to eastern Europe's exports

Independent States. Europe's common agricultural policy and its controversial export subsidies must continue in the present form, he said — a significant assertion if one considers that M Attali used to be the special adviser to the president of France, a country that strongly supports the CAP. But he went even further: "To achieve this, the European Community has to change its policy towards steel, textiles and agriculture. And we have to be bold enough to do it. If we don't do it, eastern Europe will not be able to sell us their agricultural and other products." He pointed out that Russia could achieve immediate savings of \$10 billion if it stopped importing grain. Those savings could be used to buy necessary equipment and machine tools.

A refusal by western Europe to open up would be the ultimate hypocrisy, M Attali added: "There are some people who actually prefer eastern Europe to suffer from balance of payments deficits, since this is only the result of our dumping of agricultural surpluses. Instead, we must open our markets. Do we really want to regard eastern Europe as a means of financing our own trade surpluses? Or, rather, do we consider

that we have a role to play in its development? If the EC regards its CAP, steel and textiles regimes as inflexible and unchangeable then the result might be frustration and war in eastern Europe, and we must not forget that eastern Europe was twice the origin of a world war."

The two best forms of assistance we can give to the east are free trade and direct help with the reconstruction of industries with the greatest export potential, such as oil and agriculture. M Attali accepts that balance of trade finance is important, but the essential task is to create a situation in which such finance is no longer needed.

Last week's much-hyped G7 accord on a \$24 billion assistance package — \$6 billion for a stabilisation fund and the remainder in trade credits — is a case in point. M Attali declared himself "sceptical" about the impact of this package not because the assistance is not needed but because it might lead to false expectations in the east, and a false sense of security in the west. "A lot of people in Moscow believe that it is a check of \$24 billion, which is going to be deposited next week. This is

not true." He added that much of this money is not essentially new money. There are also uncertainties whether the package would benefit only Russia, or all of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

The increasing scepticism, desperation even, expressed by those dealing with reform in eastern Europe, raises the inevitable question: What has gone wrong in eastern Europe since 1990?

The Commission for Europe points out quite astutely that western "experts" were not only incompetent in forecasting the collapse of communism, but that subsequently many of those experts have underestimated the task ahead. The commission lays much of the blame on the dogma of shock-therapy economics, as advocated by some prominent western advisers, such as immediate price liberalisation coupled with a squeeze on the money supply. Voodoo economics may have been discredited in the west during the last decade, but its advocates found a willing outlet in eastern Europe, where politicians were sometimes too desperate (and too naïve) to object to economic experiments of the kind that would never have been acceptable in the west.

The result was that eastern Europe entered the reform process with unrealistic expectations, which were bound to be disappointed.

The flaws of shock-therapy economics is one of M Attali's pet subjects. A free market economy is not a free-floating anarchic system, but one that relies on a functioning infrastructure such as legal institutions, effective tax collection mechanisms, financial institutions, central banks, anti-trust authorities and law-and-order enforcement among many. The establishment of such institutions represents the first task in the restructuring process.

He conceded that there is one aspect where there is no alternative to the so-called shock therapy — the creation of those free-market institutions themselves. Building on this, the remainder should be a gradual process. "Trying to implement measures of price liberalisation can be very dangerous in terms of economic growth," he said. "You create inflation and black markets. You end up with no real internal supply, and you have to import, and then there will be trade deficits." No tax system, however fair and astute, could work without an effective tax collection mechanism. The result would be soaring budget deficits.

A similar logic applies to the speed of privatisation, the main subject of debate at next week's governors' meeting. He argued: "It would be a disaster if speed was the priority against the other demands of ethics, transparency, fairness and restructuring. If we have a choice between speed and transparency, I choose transparency. If we have a choice between privatisation and restructuring, I choose restructuring. But in some cases privatisation is a technique to achieve restructuring."

The precise choice would depend on the industry. The conversion of a military industry into a civil one would be a strong candidate for a restructuring-first approach. So is Russia's morose banking system. Given the economic difficulties faced by western European countries, the response cannot be to throw money at Russia's problem. M Attali would never deny that the amount of financial assistance is important, but he believes it is vital that we choose the right sort of money. Later this year, he will press for extensions of the European Bank's remit to allow it to pursue much greater technical assistance than is possible at the moment. He also wants the European Bank to be able to grant soft loans and build up a venture capital business.

But the essential tasks of trade liberalisation and finding enough western support for the restructuring of export-oriented industries will not be easy. "The Marshall plan came at a time of world growth," he said, "but now we have a more difficult economic situation. That is why we need a long-term approach. I feel it is my duty to say it as I am one of the few not to face an election."

BUSINESS LETTERS

IoD already offers a code of practice on chairmen's pay

From the Director of Corporate Affairs, Institute of Directors

Sir, We totally agree with the view of Mr T.M. Baring (April 7) that there should be a link between a company's profitability and increases in its chairman's salary. The code of practice which he seeks is already in being and is contained in our Guidelines for Directors.

Salaries should initially be set on the basis of the size of the company, the complexity of the task and, where applicable, and only where applicable, the need to compete internationally. Thereafter,

the basis of any review should be performance, both of the company and the individual.

We have consistently advised our members that unjustified salary increases carry the seeds of their own destruction in provoking hostility from employees, shareholders and the media. It is difficult to justify a large increase in the face of a company's declining profitability.

Yours faithfully,
BLENTHY JENKINS
(Director of Corporate Affairs,
Institute of Directors),
116 Pall Mall,
SW1.

Credit for Lloyd's figures wrongly given

From Mr P. N. Archard

Sir, I read your article, "Lloyd's may lose £1.65bn" with some surprise. The article quoted a range of projections and said that they had been compiled by the Lloyd's Underwriting Agents' Association. Just to put the record straight, the projections were, in fact, put together by the Association of Lloyd's Members (ALM) using information obtained from managing agents.

This association's only involvement was to recommend in December 1991 that managing agents should provide forecasts "bottom line" results for the 1989 year of account to their supporting members' agents by the end of January this year. No doubt this initiative, which was designed to ensure that members' agents were well placed to advise

Names of impending losses at an early stage, prompted the ALM to compile their overall result.

Frequently, the agency community is upbraided for not producing enough figures. It made an interesting change, particularly on April Fool's Day, to be given the credit for a set of numbers we did not compile!

Yours faithfully,
P. N. ARCHARD,
Chairman,
Lloyd's Underwriting Agents' Association,
Room 617,
Lloyd's,
Lime Street,
EC3.

Letters to *The Times* Business and Finance section can be sent by fax on 071-782 5112.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

National recovery

AFTER many years of luckless betting on the Grand National, NatWest gifts dealer Michael Ferguson Davis — or "Goose" as he is known to friends — finally drew a hit with Romany King, second in Saturday's race. Ferguson Davis, aged 48, won £10,020 in the Stock Exchange sweepstake but says he has no special plans for the money. "I've been spending it for the last 30 years," he quips. Yesterday, though, it was champagne all round as he shared the celebration with colleagues, pausing only to reflect that while the prize was a "jolly good sum," in the old days the winnings somehow seemed so much more — a case, perhaps, of looking at a gift-horse in the mouth. One person who will not be making any such complaint, however, is Sarah Maynard, aged 22, of the SE Regulatory News Service, who won the first prize of £20,040, with the winner, Party Politics. Maynard, who recently got married to a young man called Martin, will use the money to help buy their first home.

Switching drinks

HOARE Govett has made its first big hiring since its link with ABN Amro of The Netherlands earlier this year, recruiting one of the City's top drinks analysts, Eric Frankis, from UBS-Phillips & Drew. Frankis, who had been with Phillips & Drew for 17



years, will begin work at Hoare at the start of next month. "It's their loss and our gain," says David Baggs, Hoare's specialist salesman in the breweries sector and a former Messel man who has been filling in on the analysis side since Andrew Buchanan left in January.

Competitive edge

SHEARSON Lehman is offering clients the chance to win two business class return tickets to exotic locations including Jamaica and Indonesia. All entrants have to do is spot which emerging stock-market worldwide will perform best in 1992. There is just one catch — the winner has no say in the choice of the prize destination but must fly to whichever country has the stockmarket which comes out top. "It could be anywhere from Bermuda to Bangladesh," agrees Miles Morland, Lehman's emerging markets guru who dreamed up the competition. If the winner is

less than happy with the result, he or she could do worse than use the enforced vacation to copy Morland's example and write a book. Morland penned *The Man Who Broke Out of the Bank*, currently number ten on the best-seller list, about his own travels in France.

Its own reward

DESPITE its dire financial situation — it is expected to announce a deficit of £400,000 for 1991 — St Paul's Cathedral has received more than 250 applications for the post of accountant. The recent advertisement specified applicants must be aged over 30, "used to working under intense pressure", and saintly with it, given the salary of £22,000. Ken Stones, who joined the staff of St Paul's last October, in the new post of financial controller, after recommendations by Coopers & Lybrand, admits that the job is not suitable for someone motivated by money alone. Stones, a committed Christian, reveals that he took a pay cut from his previous job in industry. He has not had a weekend off since he started and often works 13 hour days. "My own feeling of satisfaction comes from knowing that I am working for St Paul's and that maybe one day people will thank me for helping to save this great building." Perhaps the incentive package for the job could be improved by the offer of a commemorative plaque in the churchyard.

CAROL LEONARD

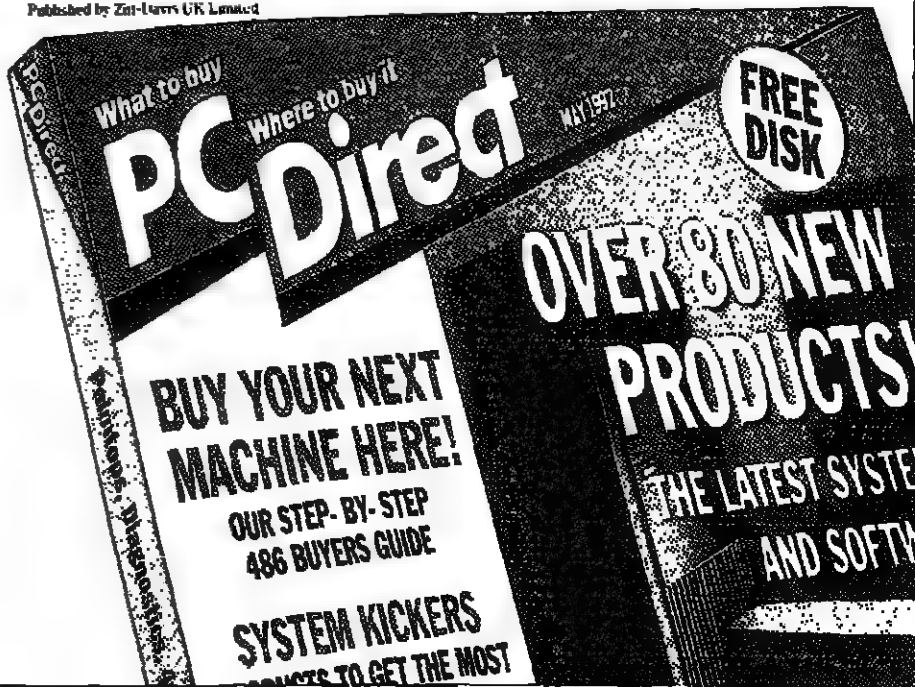
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George Cole on the radio system that gives good sound and does away with re-tuning as one drives across country

Keep an ear out for the digital wireless

A new radio system, described by the BBC as "the most significant development in this decade", promises interference-free broadcasts with compact disc sound quality. Digital audio broadcasting, or DAB, is expected to take the wireless into the digital age within three years, as well as introducing a new generation of satellite radio channels.

Since the first digital compact disc players were introduced in 1982, sound recording and broadcasting systems have been steadily moving towards digital formats that convert the audio signal into a series of numbered pulses.

The vinyl LP is being quickly replaced by the CD and there are plans for smaller compact discs and new types of digital audio tape.

The BBC and ITV companies already broadcast digital sound in some areas but only for stereo television programmes using the Nicam system. Existing radio broadcasts use AM or FM analogue systems, which transmit the sound signal as a wave, rather than a series of pulses.

The FM system can give good quality, stereo sound, but it is not without problems. FM radio was developed in the 1940s and was designed for static roof-top aerials that pointed at a radio transmitter.

But in the 1970s, the number of car and portable receivers rose and the broadcasting organisations altered FM signal transmissions to improve portable sound quality.

But this did not eliminate interference. One problem, known as multipath distortion, occurs when the radio signal bounces off buildings and hills, creating a series of "echo" signals.

These interfere with the original signal causing crackling and fading. Tall buildings can also create "dead spots", that cause a receiver to tune and in order to avoid interference between adjacent transmitters, radio stations are broadcast on different frequencies throughout Britain. That is why drivers have to re-tune their radios constantly as they drive across country.

"Most people are fairly happy with radio sound quality," says Henry Price, head of engineering information at the BBC, "but they would like less interference".

One of the problems with digital broadcasting is that millions of pulses of information have to be sent every second and these use up a large part of the broadcasting spectrum. The pressure for spectrum space has increased due to the growing number of television, radio and satellite channels, and there is also competition from other systems such as radar and cellular phones.

Another problem is that multipath distortion in a digital signal produces vast numbers of false pulses which confuse the receiver and cause distortion.

Digital broadcasting uses a coding system which is about six times more efficient than that used by the CD format. The coding system makes use of a phenomenon known as "masking". If a quiet sound is mixed with a loud sound of a similar frequency it becomes hidden or "masked".

The system does not bother to code these masked sounds and so much less information is sent. The coding system is so efficient that five digital radio channels could fit into the space currently occupied by a single FM channel in Britain.

The coding system also helps to eliminate multipath



A better earful: Henry Price, of the BBC, says the new system will be expensive at first, but should drop in price

distortion. Because the radio is receiving far fewer pulses, it has more time to differentiate between true and false pulses.

And digital broadcasting uses a second method to remove interference. Instead of transmitting the data as a single stream, it sends hundreds of separate channels, each of which contains relatively few pulses. This gives the receiver even more time to sort out the pulses.

This resistance to interference means a radio station could operate on a single frequency across a whole country or continent. Digital broadcasts can be sent via either satellite or terrestrial transmitters, or a mixture of both.

The simplest form of satellite broadcasting would involve pointing a satellite dish directly at an orbiting satellite.

However, these frequencies are currently in use and are unlikely to be free before

2007. For this reason, broadcast organisations are pursuing terrestrial transmissions. One possibility is for digital broadcasts to use unused television channels—the BBC for example is looking at the old 405-line frequencies. The BBC has for some time been using test vans in the London and Birmingham areas.

Digital radios will be operated by push-buttons and will also receive regular long, medium and FM wave broadcasts, which will co-exist with digital.

Mr Price admits that the first DAB receivers will not be cheap. "However, you have to remember that the first calculators were very expensive, too," he says. "We would expect DAB to be used in all kinds of receivers, from bed-side clock radios, to personal stereos and kitchen portables."

"This year, we don't have a single mono system in our catalogue."

A bewildering variety of colour displays is available, each with different resolutions and quality of colour.

Advanced designs, such as the bizarre revolving colour which rotates from vertical to horizontal and is selling well, rub shoulders with IBM's tired display standard, which even in its heyday was widely deemed to be scarcely adequate for text display.

Some magazine small advertisements even sell systems with green or orange screens as "colour", and it is scurrilously rumoured that certain owners of Amstrad PCW systems think that this is an advanced feature of their system.

"People like colour," says Fiona Macrae of market analysts Romet. "The trouble is that they do not stop to think that it looks good at a quick glance, they will buy it."

But why does the average user need 256 or more colours? Most computer dealers explain that colour is useful for

charts and graphics and invaluable for the Windows graphics interface that they are also selling.

"It's cute," is the response from a more cynical dealer. "It looks really good on their desks, but who needs colour for word processing or accounts?"

"It is a case of being able to say 'Don't the accounts look pretty displayed in green?' In fact, pound for pound you get a better quality of display from monochrome."

Parallels can be drawn with the early days of desktop publishing. Many users, given the possibility of publishing their own documents convinced themselves that they had also been granted the ability. Some of the results were horrible.

Are we now starting to see executives who fondly think that they can produce their own colour slides for presentations or print their own colour brochures?

"This complaint from a jaded secretary is beginning to sound familiar," he prepared these charts on his screen in red and green and blue, and then he asks me to print them out. But they all come out black-on-black, because we don't have a colour printer. It takes me hours to get it right and then he wants to know what's been keeping me."

Mike Black, a typesetting specialist who runs the Text Formatting Company, has been called in many times.

"Let's face it, with modern software, you can do a good semi-professional job on a low budget. But it's never been just a question of technology. The expert uses a few typefaces and simple colour to get a quality look."

"If you put a novice in front of the screen you wind up with headlines set in orange or purple. I have learnt to walk away from those jobs because they are not worth the grief."

"You are dealing with a know-all who hits the roof when you tell him how you think it ought to be done and what your fees are going to be."

Unfortunately — or, perhaps, fortunately — high quality colour printers are still expensive. As one IBM executive confides: "When I can afford a good colour printer I'll send my love letters in purple, but until then I'm sticking to black-and-white."

KIM WILSON

Do we really need colour?

Advances in PCs offer more choice — but they can mean problems

This is a true story of modern office technology. A well-known television producer went to his secretary recently and complained that his computer was broken — he had been typing scripts all day in green letters on a purple screen.

Fortunately the secretary recognised the work of the office wag, who had adjusted the more obscure settings on the colour system. Retribution was swift, but tempered by the producer's mortification at his own ineptitude with an essential tool of his trade.

Gone are the days when personal computers came in a choice of one colour. Today's office is a blaze of colour and light.

People use word processors set to a tasteful shade of blue, accounts that are in the red are shown in red and progress up the management hierarchy

can be measured by the size of the colour screen on your desk. Colour displays now account for nine out of every ten personal computers sold and, with volume production, the extra cost of colour is as little as £90. Within two or three years monochrome will be dead, the dealers predict.

A year ago we were still offering a range of PCs that came with either monochrome or colour displays," says one London dealer. Action Computer Supplies.

"This year, we don't have a single mono system in our catalogue."

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KIM WILSON

Motor racers find the winning formula

Black boxes are helping Formula One drivers speed around the racing tracks faster than ever before

When Nigel Mansell took his third chequered flag in a row at the Brazilian grand prix last week, the win highlighted not only the skill of the British driver and his Williams-Renault team, but also the important role of information technology in motor racing.

Mansell's team, in common with others on the circuit, has been harnessing a telemetry system that allows engineers and mechanics in the pits to monitor the health of a racing car's engine and suspension.

The system, developed by Groupe Bull, in collaboration with software company Gipsi, Silicon Graphics and MIPS Computers, is playing a crucial role in ensuring that Mansell's car and its Renault RS3 engine operate at peak performance. It offers pointers on how to improve preparations for races, while giving designers of the vehicle and its engine clues on improvements and modifications.

Meanwhile, other industries involved in motor racing are finding they are being helped in developing products, says Alain Pajot of Bull. An example is Elf, the French petro-



Helpful advice: sensors on the car transmit information to technicians in the pits who can tell the driver how well his vehicle is performing

chemicals company that supplies oils to the Williams-Renault team. It has been able to design new engine oils tailored for different racing conditions around the world.

At the heart of the Bull system are sensors, made by Magneti Marelli, placed at key points around the vehicle. They can pick up features such as oil and water temperature, fuel levels and the behaviour of the car's suspension.

Mounted above the fuel tank is a "black box" where data acquired from the sensors is stored. This is linked to another unit in the cockpit which allows the driver to see on a dashboard LCD screen some of the information coming from the sensors which

may be relevant to his driving. Mr Pajot says it is crucial not to give the driver all the information from the sensors because it may distract him. After each lap, data stored in the black box is relayed via an antenna mounted on the car to monitoring units in the pits consisting of a computer, a screen and a multi-graphics printer. Another screen is also available to the technicians and engineers so they can compare the performance of Mansell's vehicle with the other Williams-Renault car driven by Riccardo Patrese.

Up to 100 parameters at a time are relayed in the high frequency transmission from the car, which is triggered by a special signal from the pits.

From this data, engineers can study the performance of the car, drawing up a log that will indicate how the car's various parts are behaving as the race develops.

Technicians can then relay back to Mansell advice such as "you can go faster, the car is running well," Mr Pajot says. The monitoring data also helps indicate the best time for Mansell to make a routine or urgent pit stop. Should this arise, engineers can modify any of the car's parameters such as engine speed, by programming a small portable computer that can be connected to the vehicle's engine management system.

Such systems are a long way from the first reported use of

information technology in motor racing when, in 1966, Colin Chapman fitted an aircraft flight recorder, or black box, on to a racing car.

The device, although bulky, offered engineers valuable insights into the amount of aerodynamic lift at the same time as very wide tyres were becoming popular.

Chapman's foray into IT was followed by Porsche and MIRA. However, telemetry systems only began making an appearance in the late 1980s.

Mr Pajot says the next developments are starting to emerge in monitoring and relaying information, including stress on the body shell.

NICK NUTTALL

Robots at war

MILLIONS of computers will be used on the battlefield of the future. They will range from shirt-pocket devices carried by foot soldiers and microprocessors carried in weapons to computer-based "gene libraries".

This is one of the predictions made in a study conducted for the US Army, in which the National Academy of Sciences assembled 100 experts to look at how wars will be conducted in 30 years. Robots will be swarming the battlefield, firing armour-piercing bullets.

Tangled tape

THE European Commission has unveiled plans for a computer system which should cut the red tape tangling value added tax (VAT) payments in

the European Community. The computer will take over when border tax controls vanish with the introduction of the EC's single market in 1993.

From January 1 tax controls on intra-EC trade will be carried out retrospectively on the basis of standard commercial documents such as invoices and quarterly VAT returns. The computerised VAT Information Exchange System (VIES), which will be linked up to national VAT databanks, will allow companies to check the VAT credentials of firms in other member states with which they are doing business.

The system should be running from November to give traders time to prepare for a July 1, 1993 deadline for making their first VAT declaration.

Ring Cuba

A MEXICAN telephone company is to help install a cellular telephone network in Cuba.

The private company, International Telecommunications of Mexico, and the state-owned Cuban Telecommunications (Emtelcuba), have set up a joint venture to introduce a public cellular network for a period of 20 years, after which time the company will become nationalised.

The cellular telephone company will be exempt from taxes and will not have to pay duty on imported goods needed for the project. The venture is the result of a law allowing foreign companies to invest in Cuba.

Sales shine

SUN Microsystems is to license the designs of its microprocessors to clients in order to broaden its sales base.

Sun, the world leader in the market for workstation computers that are often used by engineers, said it hopes to convince computer makers to sell systems that are based on its Sparc chips.

Sun said its licensing program will give customers access to advanced technology that they might not be able to develop on their own and enable Sun to share research and development expenses. It said two customers have begun selling multimedia audio chips designed in conjunction with Sun.

Next week's Infotech Times will appear on Thursday, April 16, because of the Good Friday bank holiday.

Early Election Result.

On Monday, 6 April, Morse Computers were elected "Lotus UNIX Reseller of the Year". The UNIX platform of Morse's choice is Sun Microsystems, on which merchant banks are choosing to run Lotus 1-2-3 and Lotus Realtime. Today, Morse will hang the plaque next to their "Sun Authorized Reseller of the Year" award.

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The Siberian athlete who dreads the chill hand of the taxman and the federation begging bowl

Tolstikov budgets for further success

By DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

TODAY most taxpayers working in Britain will know where they stand. Not Yakov Tolstikov, who is here temporarily from the Siberian mining town of Kemerovo to boost his income and defend his ADT London Marathon title on Sunday. Last year's victory cost him £4,000 in tax and a compulsory donation of £17,000 to the Soviet federation.

How much of his earnings on Sunday will be taxed? "I don't know," he said yesterday. "We have been paying 20 per cent but I have not been home for two weeks. It changes all the time."

Tolstikov was left with only £12,500 for his impressive morning's work a year ago, when he broke away at 14 miles to win by more than a minute. A year is a long time in politics, especially where Tolstikov comes from.

Last April he was running for the Soviet Union, on Sunday it will be for the unified team; in those days he was told where to train, now he trains where he likes, more or less: in last year's marathon he was ordered to camouflage his shoes to conceal the brand he was wearing but yesterday national team officials were negotiating an individual deal with a shoe company on his behalf outside the team arrangement. And this time they will take less than the 50 per cent of his race earnings which they took last year.

The break-up of the Soviet Union has even transformed its runners' Olympic marathon trial. London, not somewhere in the former Soviet Union, is where performances count for Barcelona.

Though Tolstikov has been selected already, the other two places will go to those who show up best here on Sunday. It is a limited guest list though: only two of the states are represented: Russia and Ukraine. "The strongest marathon runners were always from Russia and Ukraine," Tolstikov said.

"It is difficult to find a place to hold a trial because it is difficult to find neutral territory," Tolstikov said. "And being here to compete against the best athletes is a lot better." And money to the federation which needs it more than ever before.

Two months' training in Florida, then fine-tuning in

Brighton for the last fortnight, has been a pleasant change. He used to complain of "no freedom for normal training" while his coach, Victor Fomin, objected to "being ordered to attend a series of training camps". Brighton seemed more like a holiday camp, staying in a seafront guest house with no trouble finding food, as there is at home.

"Politically we are free but from an economic point of view it has got tougher," he said. "But to leave your home is a big step." At the age of 32, he may not have many paydays left, so he has been working on his security. After dropping out of the world championships in Tokyo, he used his drawing power as the London Marathon champion to earn well from commercial marathons in Carpi, Italy, and Fukuoka.

As in Tokyo, he ran well in neither: he was eleventh in Carpi and ninth in Fukuoka. He needs a victory to keep up his market value. If not here then at the Olympics. Anyway, he has something to prove in Barcelona.

Four years ago he won the Soviet national championship but was not selected for Seoul. And he is suspicious that he was said to have failed a drugs test in 1985 because the federation did not want him in its team for the World Cup. He wants to show that, freed of his chains, he can make a mark at Olympic level. Tolstikov's London title will come under siege from the Mexicans, among others. Half a dozen are here and, according to their manager, Luis Posso, any one of them could run under 2hr 10min. Mexican distance running is booming and the three who go to the Olympics will have earned their places.

The three fastest times of the season will clinch the places and, after the Rotterdam and Beppu marathons, the Mexicans here are left with a target of 2:09.28 to get in the team. The most likely contenders are Maurizio Chisano with the latter apparently the one making noises. "In Chicago in 1990 in his first marathon he got to halfway in 63min 55sec," Posso said. "Now he thinks he can go at that pace to the finish."



Front-runner Tolstikov training on the beach at Brighton before defending his London Marathon title

Frei leads the wheelchair chase

By ALIX RAMSAY

THERE will be a new wheelchair champion in the ADT London Marathon on Sunday. Last year's winner, Farid Amaraoui, of France, has not returned to defend his title.

There is a strong overseas entry led by the holder of the world best time, Heinz Frei, of Switzerland. He set his record in Assen at the World Games two years ago, recording 1hr 27min 05sec, but will not repeat that feat on Sunday on the notoriously slow, winding London course. Chasing him will be the Swedish pair, Jo Lindqvist and Hakan Ericsson, the

London winner in 1990. There is little to separate these two, Lindqvist being faster by one second with a personal best time of 1:32.20.

The large British contingent in the 63-strong field is headed by David Holding, from Kentenring. He last won the race in 1989 but, as he is the first to admit, the overseas competitors were not as strong then.

Since winning he has been struck by bad luck, pulling out ten miles into the run with hypothermia in the rain-drenched 1990, and, just losing touch with the leaders in the closing stages last year.

"I was with them all the way until we hit the cobblestones," he said. "They are terrible. They slow you down and the carpet they lay over the top doesn't help, it rucks up and drags under the wheels. The top pack opened up a gap on me there and I finished sixth."

In theory the London course should favour the likes of Holding, aged 23, much with a good sprint finish, but he says: "It's a slow race because it's a hard course and often you haven't got anything left at the end."

While his best time is 1:37:21, that was recorded two years ago in Assen where

the roads were good and the straights long. He is looking to equal last year's achievements and finish in the top six.

The women's race fields only five competitors, all from Britain. Rose Hill, the British road-racing grand prix champion from Milton Keynes, is the favourite. Her best time of 2:12:14, made in one battle of the sexes the London Marathon has a female winner. Yvonne and Barry Holloway will both be in action, with Yvonne streets ahead of Barry on paper, with a personal best time 45 minutes faster than her husband.

EQUESTRIANISM

Stark choice may be swayed by cool temperament

By JENNY MACARTHUR

IAN Stark, the European three-day event champion, will give his two Olympic contenders, Murphy himself and Glen Burnie, their first competition of the season at the Pedigree Chum Belton Horse Trials in Lincolnshire, starting today. It will be Glen Burnie's first outing since winning the European championships at Puchestown in Ireland last September.

Belton, a traditional pre-Badminton outing, has attracted a quality field. The numbers have been swelled by the large contingent of foreign riders who are using British facilities to prepare for the Olympics. Fifteen countries are represented, including Spain, Korea, Japan, South Africa, Australia and Canada.

The British entry includes Virginia Leng, the former world and European champion, with Master Craftsman and Welton Houdini, Richard Walker, with Jacana, and Mary Thomson, with King William, all members of the gold medal-winning team at Puchestown. Lorna Clarke, with Fearless Man, and Rodney Powell, winner of Bad-

minton last year, are also in the field.

Although Stark has been excused Badminton by the selectors and is automatically shortlisted for the Olympics he is still intending to ride there with one of his two famous greys. It is most likely to be Glen Burnie, the horse he may also ride in Barcelona. "There is little to choose between them," Stark, who was runner-up at Badminton on Murphy himself last year, said, "but Glen Burnie is probably better at coping with the heat."

If he does ride the 14-year-old son of Precipice Wood at Badminton, Stark will be trying to win. "There is no point in going to Badminton just to hack round," he said. New Zealand's dual Olympic champion, Mark Todd, heads the foreign entry. The former dairy farmer, aged 37, has just returned from competing in France with his Olympic show jumping contender, Kleenex Double Take.

The trials, for which the going is reported to be perfect, begin with today's dressage.

SPORT FOR THE DISABLED

Videos should raise profile of athletes

By ALIX RAMSAY

WHAT started out as a final project for a degree in design and media management was launched this week as a promotional campaign to raise the profile of paralympic athletes on their way to the summer Games.

The six five-minute videos feature some of Britain's best medal prospects, showing them training, competing and discussing themselves and their ambitions. They were made by Theresa Cross and Christina Clayton, both students at the Polytechnic of West London.

"The problem of their disability wasn't even ap-

proached unless it was mentioned by the athletes themselves," Clayton said. "When we filmed them we filmed them as able-bodied athletes in that we were filming the sport and not the disability."

Simon Jackson, aged 19, the world judo champion and one of the athletes featured, is pleased with the end result. "The films portray us as good athletes for a change," he said. "They didn't plaster all over it that I was partially sighted."

Now it is up to television to change its mind about disabled athletes and show the videos.

FIXTURES FOR THE 1992 CRICKET SEASON

April

13-FIRST-CLASS MATCH (four days)
Lord's: Essex v Lancashire

14-FIRST-CLASS MATCHES (three days)
Fenner's: Cambridge University v Leicestershire

The Parks: Oxford University v Durham

17-FIRST-CLASS MATCHES (three days)
Fenner's: Cambridge University v Middlesex

The Parks: Oxford University v Warwickshire

19-SUNDAY LEAGUE
Derby: Derbyshire v Essex

Durham University: Durham v Lancashire

Southampton: Hampshire v Gloucestershire

Canterbury: Kent v Somerset

Leicester: Leicestershire v Warwickshire

Trident Bridge: Nottinghamshire v Sussex

The Oval: Surrey v Northamptonshire

Edgbaston: Warwickshire v Derbyshire

Leicester: Leicestershire v Warwickshire

Trident Bridge: Nottinghamshire v Sussex

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Edgbaston: Warwickshire v Derbyshire

Leicester: Leicestershire v Warwickshire

Trident Bridge: Nottinghamshire v Sussex

Northampton: Northamptonshire v Lancashire

Canterbury: Kent v Somerset

Trident Bridge: Nottinghamshire v Sussex

Jessons: Durham v Derbyshire

Cardiff: Glamorgan v Warwickshire

6-TOUR MATCH (three days)
Worcester: Worcestershire v Gloucestershire

4-BRITANNIC ASSURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP (four days)
Chesham: Essex v Lancashire

Canterbury: Kent v Somerset

Leicester: Leicestershire v Warwickshire

Trident Bridge: Nottinghamshire v Sussex

The Oval: Surrey v Northamptonshire

Edgbaston: Warwickshire v Derbyshire

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Edgbaston: Warwickshire v Derbyshire

Leicester: Leicestershire v Warwickshire

Trident Bridge: Nottinghamshire v Sussex

The Oval: Surrey v Northamptonshire

Essex: Gloucestershire v Warwickshire

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Hatoof has difficult task against Kenbu

GOLF

Luck turns full swing for Cooper and coach

FROM MEL WEBB IN JERSEY

WHO needs Augusta when you can be in Jersey in the springtime? The sun was warm on everybody's backs at La Moye yesterday, and it did nobody more good than Derrick Cooper, who responded by producing his best round for many a long day.

The heavyweight from Warrington, one of the bon vivants of the European Tour who believes in keeping the cup of life well topped up, attributed his round of 66, six under par, to three things — a return to school, a small triumph claimed in the company of a friend, and a severe blow in the wallet the day before the tournament started.

Cooper has not had the best of starts to the season; his best finish in five Tour events this year is a tie for 27th, which does not keep such as Cooper in the style to which he would like he and his family to become accustomed.

There was no answer but to put himself back under the magisterial eye of Bob Torrance, his coach, whose only burden in life seems to be that he is occasionally described by those who should know better as a guru.

One hesitates to use the word, conjuring up as it does a picture of a geriatric Indian priest dressed in a sheet and surrounded by 1960s pop stars. Torrance is neither geriatric nor Indian, and has never been seen in public clad in the bed linen; but he is certainly a gentleman, and a scholar, too, in his uncanny ability to unlock the mystical secrets of an ailing golf swing.

Cooper has spent two prolonged sessions with Torrance, and was told by him that he should be obeyed that the key lay, simply, in reducing an overlong backswing. Thus encouraged, he emerged a more

optimistic man, and immediately joined his pal Richard Boxall in winning the Sunningdale Foursomes, that much-loved hybrid that brings together the best in British golf, amateur and professional, male and female, and any combination of the four.

"I feel much more comfortable with my swing now," he said. "I feel as though I'm beginning to get it right." And this after a round which contained eight birdies, with only a couple of bogeys to bring his mind back on the job at hand.

He went into the tournament with the memory of a tanning to the tune of £300 he and Boxall had received the previous day at the hands of their fellow-professionals, Ross McCordane and Martin Dwyer, a three-handicap member of Sunningdale. Something had to be done to put the Cooper balance-sheet right.

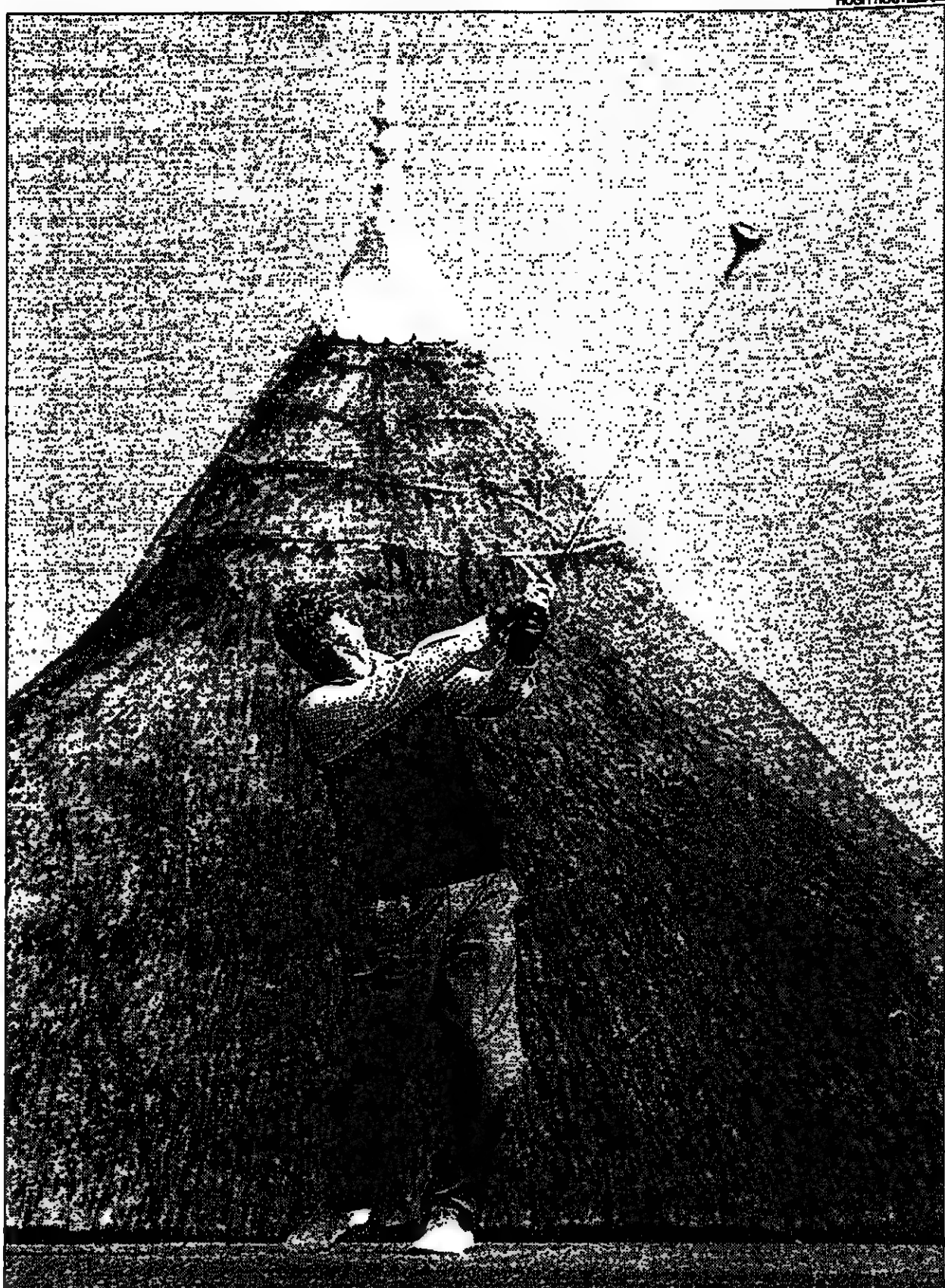
He had the best of all possible stars when he sank a 15-foot putt for a birdie at the 1st, and got another at the long 2nd. He dropped shots at the 4th and 5th but got them back at the 6th and 8th.

Coming home was a breeze, with four birdies, including a 20-foot putt at the 13th and a 15-footer at the last. Getting it right? Heaven knows what he will shoot when he finally cracks it.

□ **Daiwaichi, Japan:** Yoshikazu Yokoshima produced a course record-equaling eight-under-par 63, including two eagles, yesterday to take a one-stroke lead after the first round of the men's open. The winner of 11 tournaments, Yokoshima, aged 40, also had four birdies as he tied the course record set by Masahiro Kurumoto of Japan in 1988. (AFP)

EARLY FIRST-ROUND SCORES: 66: D Cooper, 67: M James, P Smith, 68: W Longmire, 69: D Silva (Port), N Bryson, R Chapman, P Bala, G Girard, D Russell, D Smyth, B Gallacher, S Torrance, S Bowmen (US), D Frouser, J Heagerty, D Williams, J Rutledge, W Stephens, H-F Thu (Ger), J Robson, R Karlsson (Swe), A Hogg, J Robinson, J Booth, P Broadhurst, R Lee, 71: R Clayton, S

Hamil, P Lawrie, T Lawrie (Fr), G Evans, C Mason, P Way, M Posen, P Le Chevalier, 72: A Murray, O Vincent (US), M Kibbe, S Berr, J van de Velde (Fr), 73: J Sewell, B-Harshbark, M Sunesson (Swe), W Guy, 74: R Tomlin (Aus), P Walton, 75: J-L Le Linder (Aus), A Chandler, D Terolanche (SA), 76: J Hewitson, 77: R Allen (US), R McParlane, B Barnes.



Cover drive: Ron Bulgin, of Westminster, tees off in front of a shelter on the 17th at Royal St George's

Eastbourne upset balance of power

BY A CORRESPONDENT

EASTBOURNE, a marginal on which the politicians were keeping a wary eye late last night, produced the first big upset yesterday afternoon, with their cliff-hanging 3-2 victory over the holders and hot favourites, Shrewsbury, in the Halford Hewitt Cup, which is being contested over Royal St George's at Sand-

wich, and Royal Cinque Ports at nearby Deal.

A mammoth total of 640 old boys, in teams of ten, from 64 public schools throughout Britain are competing in one of the most prestigious events on the amateur calendar, instigated at Deal 68 years ago.

Over the past 12 years, Shrewsbury have been finalists five times and winners twice, and they started their

defence of the title with 36 points, on top of the table, compared to Eastbourne's two.

Eastbourne opened with wins in their first two matches, but lost their final two out in the country. That meant their third pairing, of Robert Meaby and Christopher Walker, was last to finish. The pair were dourly two against Hillidrop and Mawdsley, but

lost the 17th and at the 18th both teams missed 12-foot putts to halve in bogey-fives and give Eastbourne the decisive third point.

Michael Reece, the Rossall captain, marked his 35th consecutive appearance and more than 120 matches in the cup with a win for himself and his team over Dulwich.

Results, page 37

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL

Bromsgrove's late run stirs Hope

BY WALTER GAMMIE

FUELED by six wins in six matches, Bromsgrove Rovers have swept into contention to continue to make the Beazer Homes League the most fiercely contested of the three feeder leagues to the GM Vauxhall Conference.

A showdown for Bromsgrove next Thursday at Dover Athletic, who lead the division by two points, having played a game more, may prove decisive but Bashley, and VS Rugby await any slips.

Bromsgrove have been negotiating with the Football Trust to try to gain help in raising the £30,000 needed to put up new terracing behind one of the goals to meet the

demands of the Conference. "It must be done before May 9," Bobby Hope, the Bromsgrove manager, said. "The deadline used to be July 31 but I think one or two teams in the past conned the league. They found the work had not been done, when all the places and fixtures had been decided."

"I'm not a betting man," Chris Kinnear, the Dover manager, said. "I wouldn't put any money on us, or any of us, in fact." Dover's 3-0 win over Gravesend and Northfleet on Tuesday, with two goals from Mark Rees, signed from Aldershot last week, spelled relegation for their fellow Kent side.

"Dover were my tips before the season," Hope said.

"They're a very experienced side. They are very strong defensively and they've got forwards who can pinch goals. They are a very hard nut to crack."

Four wins last week, including a 1-0 win at Bashley on Thursday, were vital for Bromsgrove, although injuries to important midfield players, Martin O'Connor and Paul Webb, at Corby Town last Saturday have cast a shadow. "We play well as a team," Hope said. "The players who have come in when needed have not let the side down and I think that's been a big plus for us. One or two lads have remained loyal to us and been prepared to stay part of a squad. We've also got a few players who can

play in several positions, which has to be part of non-League football because of the financial side."

Working will be presented with the Diadora League trophy at tomorrow's home match against Bishop's Cleeve. They clinched the title with a 3-0 win at Windsor and Eton last Saturday and drew 3,073 people for a celebratory homecoming against Kingstonian on Tuesday.

Colchester United travel to Macclesfield Town tonight for the second leg of their Vauxhall FA Trophy semi-final with a 3-0 first-leg lead. Marine, the HFS Loans League side and Witton Albion start the second leg of their semi-final tomorrow at 2-2.

HOCKEY

Sutton Coldfield will be banking on reserves

ON PAPER, the AEWHA Cup semi-finals at Milton Keynes today seem rather lopsided (Alix Ramsay writes). In one match Slough, three times Typhoo League champions take on rank outsiders in Blueharts, while the other game, between Hightown and Sutton Coldfield promises to be a much closer affair.

Sutton Coldfield will be without their Great Britain trio of Jane Sixsmith, Lisa Bayliss and Mandy Pickles, who are in the United States on a pre-Olympic tour, but feel they have the strength in depth to carry them through. Their confidence is high, as befits the defending cham-

ions, who will be competing in the European Cup Winners' Cup next week.

Hightown have had injury problems because of the strains of the county championships and England's training matches in Spain last weekend. Tina Cullen and Carolyn Reid have recovered after their trip to Terrassa and only Chris Cook remains doubtful after a knee operation.

Last time the two sides met in the league, Hightown came out on top by 2-0. The Liverpool side believes that if it can hit the same vein of form and confidence again, it will book its place in the final tomorrow.

Caught up in a magical and revealing world

BY BRIAN CLARKE

Lefty Krey, the famous American angler and casting instructor, tells a wonderful story about a demonstration of fly-fishing that he once gave.

With a single switch of his rod, he drove an entire, 30-yard fly-line to its full extent, out on to the grass in front of him. The spectators to either side gasped. With a single back-cast, he then lifted all of the line in front of him out in a straight line on to the grass behind. Another gasp.

He rolled the line to the left and he rolled the line to the right. He executed stickle casts, Z-casts and trick casts of a dozen kinds. Gasp followed gasp followed gasp. Finally, Lefty removed the butt-piece of his rod completely and proceeded to repeat the entire performance using the top half alone. Stunned silence.

"OK," he said after this mesmerising display. "Any-one got any questions?"

A pause. Then a man in the crowd stepped forward. "Tell us," he said in a coaxing stage whisper, "where did you get that magic rod?"

The story preserves a great piece of humour, and yet it conveys a truth that will be recognised by anyone who writes about fishing, or teaches it, or is perceived in any way at all to be successful at it. By far the most common question that comes through the mail or is asked on the bankside is the one that seeks the short cut; that tries to wrinkle out some imagined piece of magic; that asks the

various life forms I had and placed these into the aquarium. A couple of sprigs of oxygenating weed from a pet shop to keep the water vital, a separate bottle of water to top up the aquarium as the water in it evaporated, and the job was done.

The first few tawls of the net will produce many of the insects that lake trout eat, and on which so many artificial flies are modelled. They will also disperse any disquiet that lakes might be filled with wriggly horrors and show aquatic insects — unlike many of their land-based brethren — to be fascinating and often beautiful creatures.

Those most likely to be found are olive nymphs, damselfly nymphs, corixidae, freshwater shrimps, alder larvae and sedge larvae — complete with cases of sand and cut leaves — midge larvae and pupae; and freshwater snails which, for all their lack of charisma, will creep slowly around the inner surfaces of the glass, keeping them clean and algae-free.

The mere act of lifting the minnow net from the water will add flesh and meaning to the Latin names so often unnecessarily used in angling books, and will clarify much in their sometimes confusing texts. It will show in an instant what aquatic creatures actually look like (and how awful are most of the imitations sold in the shops). The study of them as they bustle about their daily

lives inside the glass only inches away from the end of the nose will give the clearest insight into how they move and hatch and die — and so how artificial flies should be moved and fished on the

end of the line. For those who tie their own flies, the aquarium provides nature's own models for copying; and for those who do not, it will provide the basis for making far more discriminating choices when artificials are being bought.

The aquarium will give the angler a new perspective of the dapper olive nymph into the diaphanous and elegant winged fly, the hatching of the midge pupa into the often beautifully coloured adult, the struggles of the corixia as it darts to the water's surface, collects a bubble of air and then labours mightily to carry it to the bottom to breathe, will also fascinate and give even a sense of privilege and wonder.

More practically, the aquarium will give a new sense of confidence when choosing and fishing a fly, especially when the trout are rising and so are known to be present and feeding. It will bring to the end to the desperation of lucky dip and "what did you get it on?" and "is it true they want something with silver in it today?"

Over all, a profound sense of satisfaction will emerge not only from the fact that fish are being caught, but from a knowledge of why they are being caught. This, without doubt, is the greatest benefit of all. It is at this point, and not with any dazzling rod or "secret" fly, that the real magic of fly-fishing begins.

How a simple home-made aquarium can take the secret out of successful fly-fishing

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm)	Conditions	Runs to resort	Weather (Spm)	Temp (°C)	Last snow fall
FRANCE						
Alpe d'Huez	95-150	good	open	sunny	0	5/4
		(Good skiing on relatively uncrowded pistes)				
Chamonix	20-380	mixed	open	fine	0	5/4
		(Upper slopes good)				
Châtel	20-130	mixed	closed	fine	1	5/4
		(Lower runs at Super Châtel very poor. Skiing at Pre-Les-Joux)				
Flaine	85-255	mixed	open	fine	1	5/4
		(Higher levels still good, with lower down)				
Méribel	20-170	mixed	poor	fine	1	5/4
		(Lower runs suffering. Upper sections remain good)				
Tignes	120-175	good	open	sunny	1	7/4
		(Good skiing at all levels)				
AUSTRIA						
Brand	30-210	good	open	cloudy	2	5/4
		(Good over on upper pistes. Wet lower down)				
Isle	0-200	mixed	closed	cloudy	8	31/3
		(Still good above middle station)				
Sölden	0-200	mixed	closed	fine	-1	5/4
		(Upper sections still good. Most lifts operating)				
Westendorf	5-170	mixed	closed	sunny	2	5/4
		(7 lifts operating on upper sections)				
Zell am See	30-200	good	open	cloudy	1	5/4
		(Still very good spring skiing)				
SWITZERLAND						
Crans Montana	5-130	mixed	open	sunny	-2	4/4
		(Good skiing on upper runs. Most lifts operating)				
Gstaad	10-90	mixed	poor	sunny	-1	1/4
		(Spring snow above middle station. Lower runs difficult)				
Klosters	70-290	good	open	sunny	0	5/4
		(Good skiing on spring snow. Resort runs patently)				
Zermatt	20-180	mixed	open	sunny	-2	5/4
		(Packed snow on upper pistes, lower pistes patchy)				
ITALY						
Cortina	35-150	mixed	open	cloudy	2	5/4
		(Good skiing overall, though lower runs slushy by afternoon)				
Ortisei	30-110	good	open	sunny	3	7/4
		(Good skiing on quiet pistes)				

Supplied by Ski Hobbles. L and U refer to lower and upper slopes

TABLE TENNIS

England's first tie is a hard test

THE England men hope to win a medal for the third successive time in the European championships starting in Stuttgart today (Richard Easton writes). They collected the silver in Paris in 1988 and a bronze in Gothenburg in 1990 with teams billed as England's best since the 1950s.

Now they are arguably even stronger, with the addition of Chen Xinhua, the former Chinese international, who is playing in the European championships for the first time.

The most important group match which Chen, Carl Prean, Alan Cooke and Matthew Syed face may be the first one, tonight, against the Austrians, who possess two former Chinese players, Ding Yi and Qian Qianli.

ENGLAND: Men: C Prean, Chen Xinhua, A Cooke, M Syed. Women: L Lomas, A Gordon (Berne), A Holt.

Strung up with Mum and Dad

THE family that plays together stays together. That is the theory but when the play involves the national tennis finals of the Remington family tennis championships

Alix Ramsey reports from the finals of the Remington family tennis championships

a father and son and I try not to get competitive with Scott," he said. "Last year playing in the final in Portugal I hurt my back badly. Scott realised and he started to take over on court and you can see an enormous change in him. It's not just his tennis, he is more mature."

Their semi-final opponents were the Somas from London. Hiralal is a former doubles champion for the South African Tennis Union, so knows a thing or two about the stresses on court. "The problem is when I first played with my sons I was better than them but now they're getting better than me," he says. "I could never tell my older son, Viren, what to do but now with Hitesh we can discuss tactics."

The tactics stood in good stead as they banded to over-

come deficits of 5-1 in the first set and 5-2 in the second before beating the Loydes 7-6, 7-6. They tried to work the same magic in the final but were just ousted by Ray and Paul Ranson, of Sheffield, 7-5, 5-7, 6-2 in an epic final.

Everyone remembers his or her parents doing or saying the wrong thing in pub-



David Lloyd: his son assumed command

lic, gaffes that brought not just embarrassment but the end of the world as we knew it during the traumatic teenage years. In front of an eagle-eyed tennis crowd the result can be devastating.

"I try not to say anything," Suzie Durham, the youngest competitor at 13 years of age, said with diplomacy, belying her years. "There are times when one gets more frustrated and annoyed than when playing with someone you don't know," her mother, Yvonne, said, shedding a little more light on the problem.

But in the end the frustration counted for nothing as the Durhams won the mother-and-daughter title, beating the No. 1 seeds, Joyce and Katie Howden, from Leeds, 7-5, 6-2. If they can preserve the fragile family detente they go through it all again in the international finals in May.

RESULTS: Father and son: R and P Ranson (Yorkshire) bt H and S Somas (London), 7-6, 7-6. Father and daughter: S and S Durham (Sheffield) bt J and K Howden (Yorkshire), 7-5, 6-2.

FOOTBALL

7.30 unless stated

Barclays League
Second division

Tottenham v Middlesbrough

Third division

Stockport v Exeter

Vauxhall FA Trophy

Semi-final, second leg

Macclesfield (0) v Colchester (2)

(8-0; first-leg score in brackets)

NEVILLE OVERDEN COMBINATION

Norwich v QPR; Oxford Utd v Crystal Palace

RACE NORTH WEST COUNTRIES

LEAGUE: First division: Darwen v Bury

Borough

VICTORY SHIELD: Under-15s

International: England v Northern Ireland (at Brighton FC, 7.15)

BASKETBALL

CARLSBERG NATIONAL LEAGUE

Men: First division play-offs (first of three): Leicester Riders v Worthing Bears (8.0)

JUNIOR MEN'S INTERNATIONAL

England v Belgium (Sutton in Ashfield, 7.0)

HOCKEY

AEWHA CUP: Semi-final (at Milton Keynes): Sutton Coldfield v Hightown (2.30); Slough v Blueharts (4.30)

OTHER SPORT

RESULTS: English national championships (Dorset, 6.00)

SQUASH: RACKETS: H-Tac: British Open (Wembley Conference Centre)

SWIMMING: Great Britain club team championships (Sheffield)

FRIDAY APRIL 10 1992

Wolstenholme overcomes nerves at Augusta

Wadkins takes an early lead with round of 65

FROM MITCHELL PLATT
GOLF CORRESPONDENT
IN AUGUSTA, GEORGIA

GARY Wolstenholme yesterday enjoyed the most memorable round of his career as, alongside Arnold Palmer, he played his first nine competitive holes in 33 strokes on his way to a 72 in the Masters at Augusta National.

Lanny Wadkins, who won the US PGA Championship in 1977, established the early target with a seven-under-par round of 65.

Wolstenholme, aged 31, the Amateur champion, started out on a heavenly morning when there was not even a breath of wind to rattle the towering Georgia pines.

The first hole is as gentle as they come. Wolstenholme, however, is not a long hitter and, from 40 yards behind Palmer, he struck a sound second shot to find the green. He spoiled it by taking three putts. It came as something of a surprise as, after a practice round on Wednesday, Jack Nicklaus said of Wolstenholme that he felt he could make the halfway cut because of the quality of his short game.

At the 2nd and 3rd, Wolstenholme confirmed the wisdom of those words to Palmer and to the large gallery which customarily follows the great man, especially here where he has won four times.

Wolstenholme hit a lovely pitch at the 2nd which spun the ball back to four feet. Palmer, 20 feet away, made his putt for a birdie which, of course, received generous applause. Wolstenholme, too, clapped as he did virtually everything that Palmer played a shot. Then he holed himself for a birdie.

Next Wolstenholme coaxed the ball in from 14 feet for a birdie at the 3rd. He gave himself a four-foot putt for a

Hole	Yds	Par	Hole	Yds	Par
1	405	4	10	485	4
2	555	5	11	465	4
3	360	4	12	155	3
4	255	3	13	465	4
5	435	4	14	405	4
6	180	3	15	500	4
7	360	4	16	170	3
8	535	5	17	400	4
9	435	4	18	455	4

Out: 3,485 Yds In: 3,440 Yds
Total yardage: 6,925

Pen: 72

birdie at the 7th which he holed via the side door, and advanced with another birdie at the 8th.

Palmer was clearly impressed and Wolstenholme continued to enjoy himself. He salvaged his par at the 9th with the most delicate of chips to four feet from the hole.

It is a tradition at Augusta for the leader-board to have on it at the start of play the names of the four major champions from the previous years, and also the Amateur champion and the US Amateur champion. It is unusual for the Amateur champion's name to remain there for long, but Wolstenholme knew that whatever happened he had led the Masters.

Palmer outdrove him by 60 yards at the 11th. Wolstenholme had no option other than to play safe with his second and from the right side of the green he took three to get down to drop another shot. He gave another back at the 14th, birdied the 17th, but dropped another at the 18th.

Wadkins, out in 34, demonstrated how to play Amen Corner, where so often fortune fluctuates, by extracting a birdie from each hole — the 11th, 12th and 13th — with which he moved to five under par. He made further progress with another birdie at the 14th and finished with one at the 18th.

Raymond Floyd, aged 49, brought back memories of his Masters triumph in 1976 when he raced away from the field by gathering four birdies in his first five holes. But he took six at the 7th and he needed a birdie at the 8th to be out in 33. Then, at the 10th, he dropped two shots at one hole for the second time in his round.

Colin Montgomerie two-putted from fully 60 feet for a birdie at the 2nd but he had missed from ten feet at the 1st and he did so from a similar distance at the 3rd. His approach was too strong at the 5th and he dropped a shot there and another at the next where he three-putted from 25 feet.

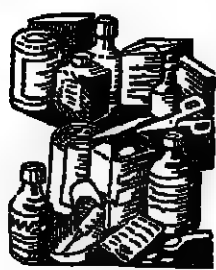
The Scot saved par from the back of the 7th with a good chip to two feet. Out in 37, he started back with three successive pars before making a birdie at the 13th.

Steven Richardson and David Feherty, like Montgomerie playing in their first Masters, were out in 35 and 36 respectively. Richardson dropped a shot at the 7th but he had an eagle three at the 8th. Feherty began with 12 successive pars, took seven at the 13th, but had a birdie at the next.

Bernhard Langer had to scramble early on but he was out in 36. He bowed his way into contention with three successive birdies from the 12th.

Jeff Sluman, the former US PGA champion, became the first player in the history of the Masters to have a hole in one at the fourth. There have been 11 holes in one, five in the 16th, three on the 12th and three on the 6th. Sluman went to four under with his.

EARLY FIRST-ROUND SCORES (US OPEN STARTER: 8:11 AM, WOLSTENHOLME: 8:15 AM, PALMER: 8:20 AM, WADKINS: 8:25 AM, FLOYD: 8:30 AM, MONTGOMERIE: 8:35 AM, RICHARDSON: 8:40 AM, FEHERTY: 8:45 AM, SLUMAN: 8:50 AM, LANGER: 8:55 AM, SARAZEN: 9:00 AM, NICKLAUS: 9:05 AM, JONES: 9:10 AM, HALL: 9:15 AM, GORDON: 9:20 AM, COOPER: 9:25 AM, WATSON: 9:30 AM, REED: 9:35 AM, CREECH: 9:40 AM, HICKOK: 9:45 AM, LITTLE: 9:50 AM, SNEDECOR: 9:55 AM, DRAPER: 10:00 AM, FLETCHER: 10:05 AM, MURPHY: 10:10 AM, BURNETT: 10:15 AM, BEECHER: 10:20 AM, PETERSON: 10:25 AM, GLASSER: 10:30 AM, HARRIS: 10:35 AM, WATSON: 10:40 AM, FLETCHER: 10:45 AM, MURPHY: 10:50 AM, BURNETT: 10:55 AM, BEECHER: 11:00 AM, PETERSON: 11:05 AM, GLASSER: 11:10 AM, HARRIS: 11:15 AM, WATSON: 11:20 AM, FLETCHER: 11:25 AM, MURPHY: 11:30 AM, BURNETT: 11:35 AM, BEECHER: 11:40 AM, PETERSON: 11:45 AM, GLASSER: 11:50 AM, HARRIS: 11:55 AM, WATSON: 12:00 AM, FLETCHER: 12:05 AM, MURPHY: 12:10 AM, BURNETT: 12:15 AM, BEECHER: 12:20 AM, PETERSON: 12:25 AM, GLASSER: 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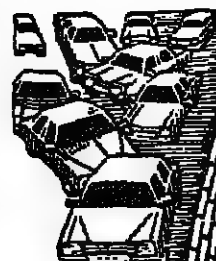


HEALTH
The struggle
for the
answer to
cot death

LIFE & TIMES

FRIDAY APRIL 10 1992

MOTORING
Forget Japan
— watch the
French cars
catching up



Bates in
move
to gain
time

The impatience of being Kingsley Amis

Jovial Sir Kingsley beams. "Long time no see. Brought a photographer with you, eh? What fun. I adore having my picture taken. Welcome to the Savoy — and this time let's have no nonsense about you paying the bill. This lunch is on me."

Sir Kingsley places fiction a long way above journalism, so I thought I'd try it. Not very convincing is it. So I must rely on the facts in my notepad. "You can say what you like," he says, "as long as you don't have me going purple with rage."

So this is not to be one of those Amis interviews, regular as the first cuckoo, where the journalist presses buttons (Arts Council/Architects/Modern poets) to cause a harrumph to erupt, or the eyes to pop. That would be as foolish as offering him a nice healthy spritzer instead of two malt whiskies before lunch, or balking at the bill (£142).

We meet because his 70th birthday looms next week. His publishers are giving a large party which he does not expect to enjoy one bit, and reissuing *Lucky Jim* as a Penguin 20th-century classic, and his *Memoirs* in paperback, hooray.

All that fuss about the memoirs being "morally repugnant" was misplaced. Of course *The Sunday Times* extracted all the most disgusting bits, the sodden, drunken yams and the grudges borne after half a century about the rounds certain tightwads failed to buy.

"Not that I blame the paper. What are they to do? Print the bits that show me to be a charming old chap, satisfied with my lot?" There were plenty of charming bits: a touching portrait of Bejeman, a deeply true one of John Braine, a tribute to the novelist Elizabeth Taylor. But hacks got busy, finding out whether victims were (if still alive) offended. "Quite artificial I thought, and souped up, because even if you do or don't like the people, what I say is pretty mild."

For Sir Kingsley the last decade has been pretty good. When he turned 60 he was in a bad way. Laid up with his leg in plaster, having managed to break it while standing up. He had gone on to Cadbury's Dairy Milk. He had to rewrite his novel, *Difficulties with Girls*. His second marriage was over, his friend Philip Larkin lately dead. He lived in an urban-hellish rat-run in Kenish Town. He got depressed in the afternoons, and went to a shrink for help, as he tells in one of the more self-revelatory bits of memoir. "I should potter about, he said, administer things. I said I had nothing to potter about with or administer. Had I any interest in the theatre? None whatsoever. I had not been for ten years. Might I go to the cinema? On my own? To see what?"

Now he is revived, rejuvenated. He won the Booker (1986), has been knighted, published four novels — one this week — and had four televised. But don't say you found *The Old Devils* better or easier to follow on television — "Of course, any book is harder work than watching TV."

Things start well. I have found him congenial company ever since he was a lad of 51 and I took him on a hilarious excursion back to Norbury in south London, the undisputed suburb of his childhood, and we lunched in a pub. Today, we peruse a grand menu that begins "Warm individual Tomato..." and he gives his odd silent laugh about the vegetable having a friendly outgoing personality. Within minutes he is mimicking people: Lord Longford, John Mortimer...

But as lunch proceeds he seems wilfully to mishear or misunderstand me. "The comparison which you yourself draw..." "Draw? I can't draw a bloody face." I mention a young writer I find funny (silly me) who "writes off the top of his head, in his garret..." "What? I've never seen him in there." "Where?" "In the Garrick. I hope we never get him in there. But you never know these days."

"But these jokes against you..." "Jokes? Oh, that's what they are. You could have fooled me." Uh-oh. The Amis interview taking over... "I don't know why we got on to him. He doesn't interest me." Who does, then? "No journalists, certainly. Lazier and lazier. Come to the interview with the thing already written. They just don't bother to check the stories. Too bloody lazy to pick up the phone and say was it 1979? Or 1942?"

But he sold his soul years ago by agreeing to his first interview: Dan Farson — that odd episode when Farson brought Lucian Freud to Swansea with him. From then on

Seventy next week,
the old growler is
cantankerous —
but he does not
know the meaning
of the word
curmudgeon

THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW



he could never be the Graham Greene-like mystery author, the reclusive Ted Hughes. The press have always had Amis on tap, promiscuous with his Sanderised drawing room and dial-a-quote responses. Only last weekend he was in the *Observer* telling us which way he was going to vote: "I shall vote Conservative. Of course I shall." Never mind that he is dogged by his declaration, in a 1956 pamphlet, about always voting Labour, "no matter how deplorable the candidate or how virtuous his opponent."

"Did you see, the only people voting Tory were Auberon Waugh, me and Jackie Mann? All the other idiots [only he didn't say idiots]..." and out poured his mistrust about Kinnock ("a loser") and his Europhobia ("those bastards in France and Germany"). Even John Smith, whom he once saw in the Garrick bar, was "too small" to take seriously.

But hell, it's his birthday. How does life look, from Primrose Hill? What does he see when he goes abroad? (I mean out and about, but he takes it literally.) "I don't go abroad. Haven't been abroad for 12 years. I only go to South Wales, which is like going abroad without leaving England. But I'm not on the lookout for things people are worried about. I've got me own life to lead and I get on with it."

He works in the mornings at the old Adler, groaning periodically and sneezing so loudly that people in the street stop in their tracks. He goes out to lunch, never dinner ("Never did like dinner parties, treacherous things. Like most men I don't really like conversing with strangers. It's women who like dinners, and theatre, and opera, and going on holiday...").

Oh, women. The ones who get words wrong. Half the wives he knows, he says, are Mrs Malaprop, saying "courettes" for "couchettes", and getting clichés wrong. "Hilly [his first wife] does it all the time. I think I'm going off my top. 'If you can manage that, Adrian, the world's your lobster.' 'When you went down to Wales for your igranial...'"



Isolated in his eye, he keeps working: he wouldn't know what else to do. Three long short stories are under way. "It's occupational therapy. Everybody, unless they've been dukes, knows work is necessary to life. I've got a dread of taking it easy. I saw what happened to my father: bored out of his mind, poor thing."

He describes his father's deadening retirement after a lifetime clerking for Colman's Mustard: the bus into Swansea, *The Daily Telegraph* over coffee, the glass of light ale in the pub, the afternoon snooze, dinner. "In the end, he went back to London and took a humble job flogging industrial brushes."

Old women do not have this problem: only the half of the human race that does not have to do its own washing, cooking or cleaning. Then as now, it was the delightful Hilly, the mother of his children, who did all that: his famous domestic arrangements today are that he shares his house with her and her genial second husband, the Earl of Kilmarnock.

I express surprise that he has resorted, several times, to going to shrinks. In that case I must be unfamiliar with his novels, he says. Well, I say, I thought all the psychiatric bits (for instance, in *Stanley and the Women* and *Take A Girl Like You*) were second-hand. "One's always writing at second-hand." "I'd have thought that even in your deepest depths, you'd be the kind who'd say, it's up to me to pull myself out of this." "Well I would, but at the same time — I need not explain myself to you — if they can help you, let's try it, why not? That would only be surprising to anyone who has never penetrated the persona. It doesn't fit in with all the curmudgeon stuff."

Curmudgeon. This is a tripwire. A girl had said to his son Martin (he affects a silly girlish whine): "I've met your father, and he's rather nice. He's not angry, he's not irritable, he's just a curmudgeon." Whatever she thought that was.

A curmudgeon, I say, is a mean old skintiffler. "I've never heard that," he clips back. "I'm sure you're wrong. It means a cantankerous person: irritable, crusty etc. Nothing to do with meanness with money. No dictionary gives any hint that it means that."

Well, really! I went straight to the Shorter Oxford when I got home. "Curmudgeon: an avaricious churlish fellow; a miser; a niggard... hence curmudgeonly: miserly, niggardly, churlish." I read this to him on the phone but he remains obdurate: "I know you're wrong," he says.

The memoirs have brought him more appreciative letters from the public than any other book. Which is very nice, but it annoys him to think people prefer reading about real life: "It negates art." Well, all right. I who like his friend Peter Quennell would rather read any biography than almost all new fiction, prefer to read Amis on education, on Chesterton, on Milton, Kipling, or jazz, or any of his sod-the-public diatribes than his new novel about the grey academic and the Russian poetess (*The Russian Girl*, reviewed warmly by our literary editor). It has a monstrous character, Cordelia, one of those women Amis endows with phonetic word-manglings as in, "Vug of, izzahd". Make critics may



"You can say what you like, as long as you don't have me going purple with rage": Sir Kingsley Amis in typically benevolent mood

fall off their bar-stools at such incoherence.

Meanwhile I return happily to his memoirs, knowing that he has said, apropos Anthony Burgess, "Autobiographies are not really serious in the way novels are." But anecdote — by which he tries not to reveal himself, but does, is a brilliant art form in itself. I love the story of his going to see Walter Lippmann with his hempen homespun Uncle Virg in tow, when Uncle Virg asked Lippmann what he thought of "Shanghai Shek", rather as one might have said Texas Dan.

He used to do an imitation of the porcine elder Waugh in Pinfold mode: now he looks like that anyway. But inside him is the once slim, handsome young blade with the sensuous mouth and thick floppy hair who wrote poetry. He still feels that writing novels is "a good second best" to poetry, so here are some lines from his *A Bookshop Day* etched in my memory:

Man's love is of man's life a thing apart;
Girls aren't like that.
We men have got love well weighed up; our stuff
Can get by without it.
Women don't seem to think
that's good enough;
They write about it,
And the awful way their poems
lay them open
Just doesn't strike them.
Women are really much nicer
than men.

No wonder we like them.
He'd have made a good Poet Laureate: monarchist, lover of Thatcher (who told him, in a dream, "You have such an interesting face"), polemicist. His views on education, aired by Beesley in *Lucky Jim* and solidified into "More will mean worse" in 1960 when "the university is already taking almost everyone who can read and write", are still valid: one is on safe ground with him discussing ignorance.

Children — anyone under 40 — don't know anything, I don't mean just the Fifth Symphony, or *Hamlet*. They don't know *Here We Go Gathering Nuts in May*.
He, by contrast, is a repository of what is worthwhile in literature and light verse. "A dread of not having anything to say, but needing to go on saying it" afflicts him, but need not. Death has taken all but four of his best friends (and his white cat Sarah). In Larkin's last letter to Amis, he sent love to Hilly, "the most beautiful woman I've ever seen without being at all beautiful, if you know what I mean. I think she does."

Sir Kingsley ends his memoirs with a poem "To H", "whose eye I could have met forever then" ... and how he "set about looking further" and lost the thing most precious to him.

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WEEKEND TIMES tomorrow
Rebirth of a river

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WAX ACTS: The American comedian Ruby Wax is back at the Globe with her punishing attack on middle-class culture.

CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: Daniel Barenboim brings the orchestra to London for the first time as its music director in two concerts which open the London International Orchestra Season. The programme of the first concert is contemporary — Beethoven's Leonore No 3, Mozart's Piano Concerto K453 (with Barenboim as soloist) and Strauss's Ein Heldenleben. In the second, however, pieces by David delaney are complemented by John Copland's highly effective and personal response to the AIDS crisis, his First Symphony. Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (071-928 8800), tonight, tomorrow, 7.30pm.

ERMONO: Mark Elder conducts The Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment in a performance of Handel's *Esther*, the powerful and unjustly neglected work based on Racine's tragedy. Andromache. The singers are: Catherine Antonacci, Gloria Scarlatti, Keith Lewis and Bruce Ford. Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (071-928 8800), tonight, 7.45pm.

STARS FROM THE BOLSHOI BALLET: Bolshoi ballerina Natalia Bessmertnova is leading a company of 30 dancers on an extensive British tour beginning in Dorchester and ending 27 venues until July. Under the direction of Bolshoi director Yury Gilyuzov, the group performs the second act of Gilev's *Les Femmes d'Alger* in a divertissement. Orchard Theatre, Home Gardens, Dartford (0322 343531), Sun, 7.45pm.

BACK UP THE HEARSE AND LET THEM SHUFF THE FLOWERS: The art of the comedian William G. Smith is a comedy about the end of the world. It simplifies death scenes. Hampstead, South County Centre, Avenue Road, NW3 (071-722 9301), Mon-Sat, 8pm, Sat, 10pm, 12.10pm.

THE COTTON CLUB: An impression of the Harlem nightclub high on energy, low on style. Aldwych, WC2 (071-836 6444), Mon-Fri, 7.30pm, Sat, 8pm, Sun, 7.30pm, 10pm, 12.10pm.

DEATH AND THE MAIDEN: John Stevenson, Michael Byrne, Bill Paterson superb in Alan Bennett's *Death and the Maiden*. Best play of the year. De La Warr, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (071-836 5122), Mon-Sat, 8pm, Sun, 7.30pm, 10pm, 12.10pm.

AN EVENING WITH GARY LINEKER: Sometimes death look at the fantasies of a frustrated woman married to a soccer nut. Durdham, Durdham Lane, WC2 (071-494 5075), Mon-Sat, 8pm, Sun, 7.30pm, 10pm, 12.10pm.

FROM A JACK TO A KING: Witty and stylish version of Macbeth's climb to the top, set in the world of rock bands and packed with songs. Boulevard, Warrington Lane, WC2 (071-836 5122), Mon-Sat, 8pm, Sun, 7.30pm, 10pm, 12.10pm.

GOOD ROCKERS TONITE: Satisfying musical celebrating Fifties and Sixties pop classics. Great stuff. Playhouse, Northumberland Avenue (071-839 4401), Mon-Thurs, 8pm, Fri, Sat, 5.30pm and 8.30pm, 12.10pm.

HEARTBEAT HORROR: Paul Scofield and Vanessa Redgrave head Trevor Nunn's splendid cast in Shaw's *Heartbeat Horror*, state-of-the-art drama. Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (071-979 3332).

NEW RELEASES

THE DOCTOR (12): Calous surgeon William Hurt goes under the knife and becomes a doctor. Familiar, material, but lively treatment. Director: Randa Haines. Barriemore (071-352 5096) MGM. Trenchard Court Road (071-638 6148) Odeon. Trenchard Court Road (071-638 6148) Odeon. Trenchard Court Road (071-638 6148) Odeon.

FINAL ANALYSIS (15): Psychiatrist Richard Gere is a patient's doctor. A dark, moody, and a little bit of a thriller. Director: Michael Mann. Barriemore (071-352 5096) MGM. Trenchard Court Road (071-638 6148) Odeon. Trenchard Court Road (071-638 6148) Odeon.

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WEEKEND EVENTS

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Karl Knight

JOHN MELLENCAMP: Last seen here in 1988, American rocker Melencamp brings two British dates to the Globe. Birmingham (021-780 4133), tonight, 7.30pm. Wembley Arena, Wembley, Middlesex (081-011 1234), tomorrow, 7.30pm.

THE HIGHWAYMEN: The cream of country comes to town at Johnny Cash's return with Waylon Jennings, Kris Kristofferson and Willie Nelson. Dates in Birmingham, Sheffield, Dublin and Belfast follow. Wembley Arena (as above), tonight, 7pm.

MARK SPRINGER/SARAH SARAH: This piano and viola duo originally came together for official improvisational bands such as Rip Rig & Pavee and Hot Lip CP. More than a decade later, they now provide a more mature, almost classical sound. Palladium Room, South Bank, London SE1 (071-928 8800), tonight, 8pm.

JOAN MARCUS AND THE DIVERSE: A company of ten flamenco dancers and musicians demonstrate the rhythms, dances and songs of the tradition. Barbican, Barbican, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (071-638 8891), tomorrow, 7.45pm.

THE ROYAL BALLET: Counting Gaudin's recent company continues its performances in Birmingham with a triple bill of Ashton's *Cold Meat*, *Macbeth* and *Chalov*. Birmingham, Birmingham, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (071-638 8891), tomorrow, 7.45pm.

STRAIGHT AND NARROW: Nicholas Lyndhurst, Neil Patrick Harris and Carmel McArthur in *Straight and Narrow*, a comedy about a doctor's life. Wembley, Wembley, Middlesex (081-011 1234), tomorrow, 7.30pm.

UNCLE VANYA: An American play by Anton Chekhov, set in a small town. National (Cottesloe), South Bank, SE1 (071-928 2252), tonight, tomorrow, 7.30pm, 10pm, 12.10pm.

LONG RUMOURS: *Aspects of Love* by C. J. C. Jones. *Aspects of Love* by C. J. C. Jones. *Aspects of Love* by C. J. C. Jones. *Aspects of Love* by C. J. C. Jones. *Aspects of Love* by C. J. C. Jones.

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Drums and Balanchine's glorious Ballet *Symphony in C*. Hippodrome, Finsbury Square, London EC2 (021-622 7486), tonight, tomorrow, 7.30pm.

LES CONJES D'HOMER: John Schlesinger's production of the Offenbach opera, staged for the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 (071-240 1066), tomorrow, 7pm.

OFFER: English National Opera gives the last performance of its season of David Freeman's *Admiral* production of the Offenbach opera, staged for the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 (071-240 1066), tomorrow, 7pm.

STRIKING NATIONAL STUDENT DRAMA FESTIVAL: The one-week festival brings ten premieres of new works including the British premiere of Caryl Churchill's *Not for the Money* (at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 (071-240 1066), tomorrow, 7pm).

THE LITTLE TRAMP: A new musical about the life of Charlie Chaplin by the American composer David Byrne. Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 (071-240 1066), tomorrow, 7pm.

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Reflected Glory

When Tennessee Williams' mother first saw his *Glass Menagerie*, she reportedly jumped "like a horse eating briars". So unnervingly similar to her own were the main character's mannerisms. The protagonist of Ronald Harwood's enjoyable *Reflected Glory* goes further. His reaction to the discovery that he features in a play written by his brother is to roll the briars round his mouth, spit them out, emit a series of enraged whinnies, and charge balefully about the paddock, having first seated a lawyer in the saddle. It is a case not of publish and be damned, but perform and I'll sue.

The situation is set up with great wit. His colleagues are throwing a party for the dramatist Michael Marx, only to see it crashed by his brother Alfred (Albert Finney), estranged from him since trying and failing to suppress a play based on their parents. The aggrieved sibling, now a restaurateur, passes the time before the guest of honour arrives heavily and angrily denouncing his brother. But when Stephen Moore's Michael ambles in, the warring words stop and the hugs and tears start.

Finney, a lumbering bull let loose among the theatrical drosses of the party, is He is canny and insensitive, touching and genial, and, without patronising the character's Mancunian bluntness, very funny indeed. Michael then informs Alfred that his next play is about their boyhood and Alfred reacts as a solicitor who conveniently, if improbably, is both married to Michael's agent and a guest at the party.

A lot of discussion about the morality of creative parasitism ensues. Moore's Michael, exuding ravished self-absorption, makes some unexceptionable points about his formative experiences. Since the party occurs in a fringe theatre where a one-man play about Van Gogh is being staged (hence the radfows and squiggles of Saul Radfowsky's set which is also made of the subjectivity of art. But to Alfred this is a poney attempt to justify an invasion of his privacy. Is it possible to reconcile his phillistinism and his brother's pen?

That is the question Harwood asks, and he answers it even more ambiguously than he may realise. He certainly wants us to take into account the brothers' old, unresolved jealousies. Each may now be taking revenge on the other. But the explanations of their rivalry are also embodied in Michael's play, which Alfred has agreed privately to view before slapping any injunction on it; and it is obvious that *Brother Mine*, as it is called, could never be the success everybody assumes. Alfred should surely be threatening to ban something worth banning. The great masterpiece about his and Michael's growing pains is the kind of presen-

tious memory-play any critic would take pleasure in disembowelling. Is that really the intention of Harwood and his director, Elijah Moshinsky? Earlier on, they have mocked the affectations of an acting profession amusingly represented by Nicky Henson and Mark Tandy. Here both play and production teeter uneasily between satire and seriousness. Still, a little loss of intellectual credibility does not seem too high a price to pay for what, all things considered, is a pretty civilised entertainment.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Not irreconcilable: the brothers Michael (Stephen Moore) and Alfred (Albert Finney) in *Reflected Glory*

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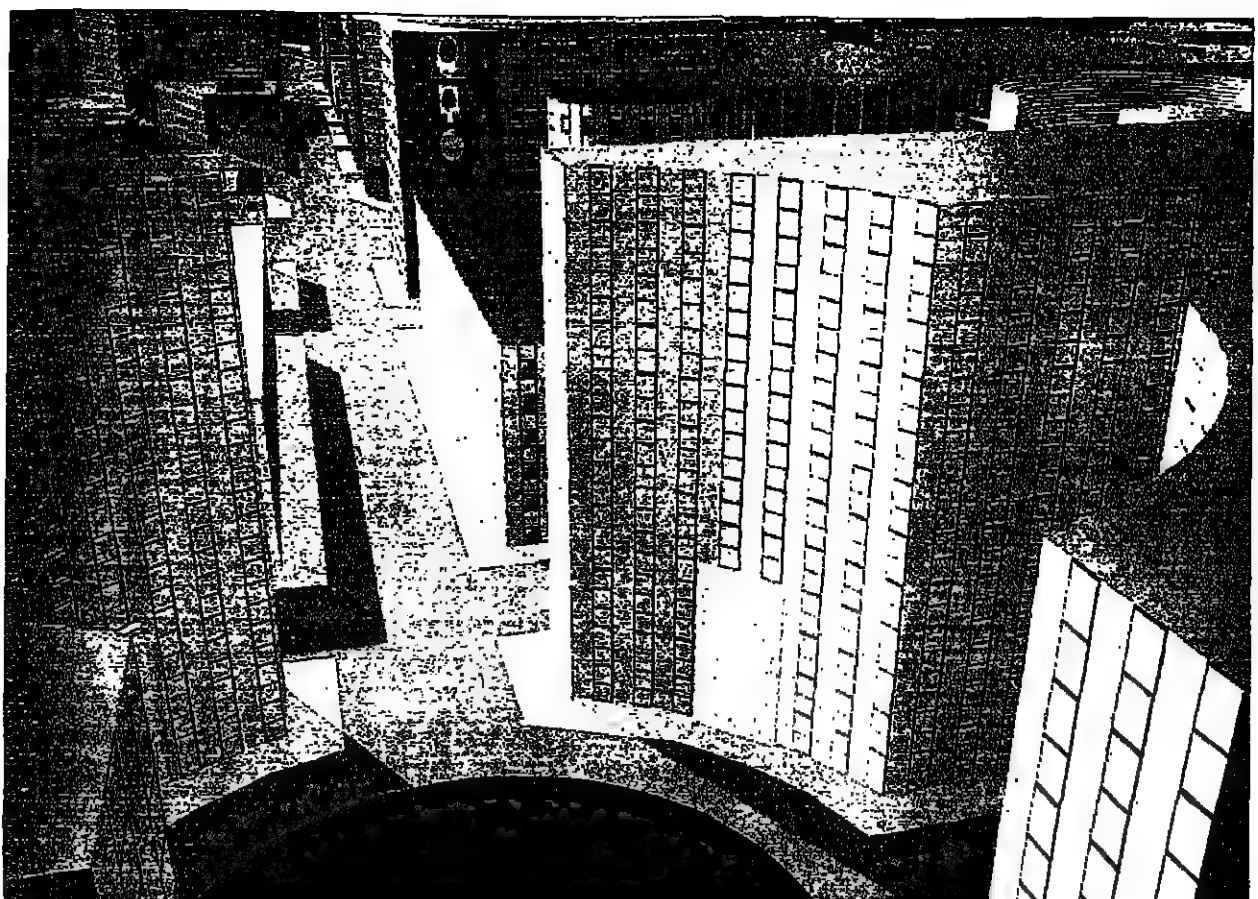
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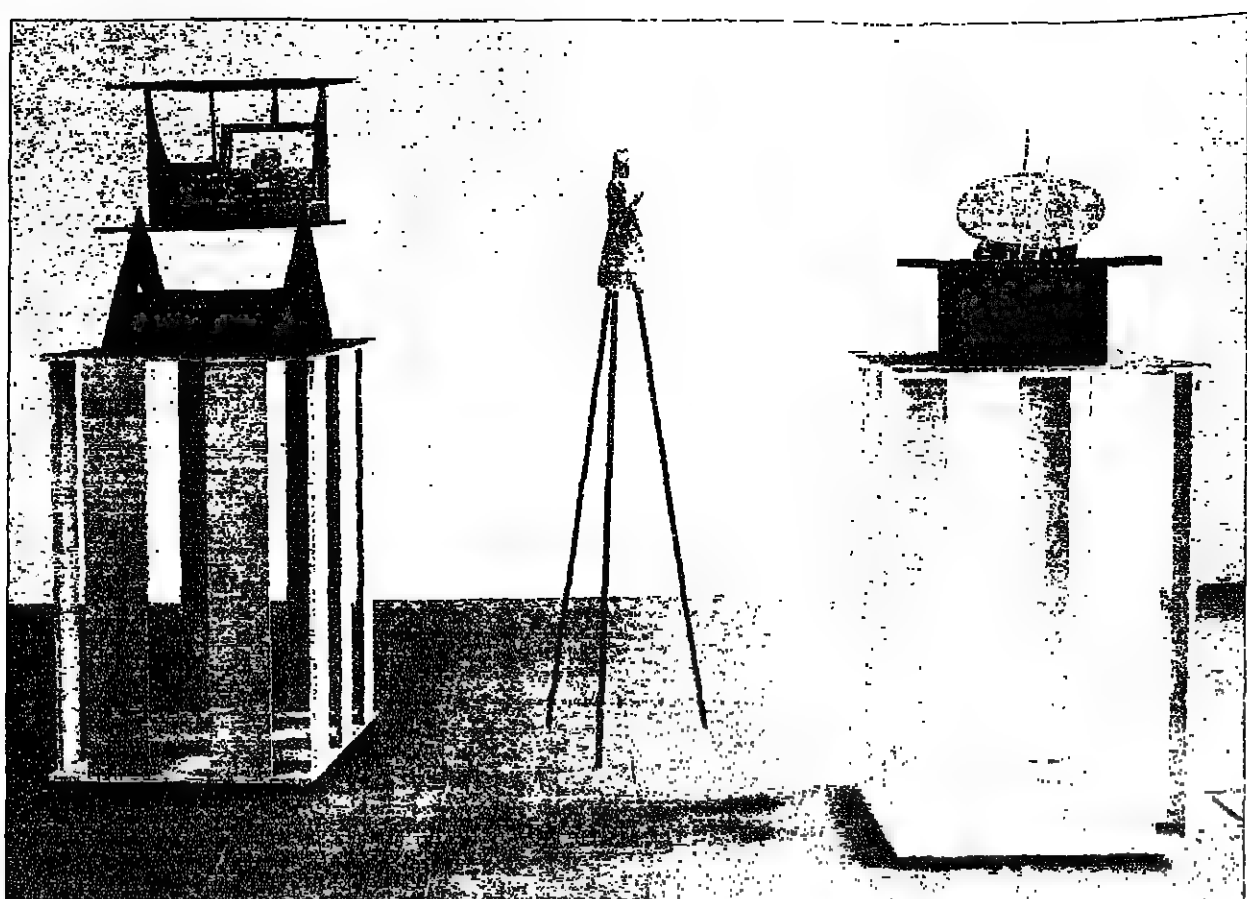
enemy



d (Albert I. Meyer)



Untitled, 1989 (left) by Matt Mullican, an alienating vista, implying that "architecture organises society with remote, impersonal efficiency" and Untitled, 1985 by Thomas Schütte, "a playful absurdity worthy of Miro"



Building on speculation

GALLERIES: LONDON

Richard Cork reviews a show by 11 artists whose work both employs and implies references to architecture

Soon after the advent of the 20th century, artists with widely differing viewpoints became obsessed by their architectural surroundings. Since most of them lived in cities, the urban scene dominated the work they produced. Some, like the Italian Futurists, saw the metropolis as a powerhouse and lauded its energy. Others, such as Mondrian, reduced the structure of buildings to the same austere, disciplined geometry as the language in their own pared-down paintings.

By no means all these pre-1914 artists regarded architecture in a positive light. Think of de Chirico, whose eerily deserted piazzas are suffused with melancholy and frustration. Or Ludwig Meidner, appalled yet fascinated by an Expressionist vision of the modern city shuddering under the impact of seismic spasms. But what unites these disparate painters is the intensity of their involvement, fired by a belief that the built environment deserved to play a central role in their challenging art.

Judging by the Serpentine Gallery's international exhibition, which brings together 11 contemporary artists who employ architectural references, the same fundamental interest remains widespread as the end of the century approaches. Differences in

emphasis are, however, evident at once.

No paintings can be found in a show devoted to sculpture, installation and photography. Nor do many of the participants depict urban surroundings as directly as their predecessors. Images of facades are hard to find, and in their place a more oblique, fragmented approach plays with our expectations at every turn.

Take the Iranian-born Shah Aramjani, whose elaborate construction provides the show with its intriguing title. Like nothing else in Tennessee, the words come at the end of Wallace Stevens's poem *Anecdote of the Jar*, incorporated in the Aramjani sculpture as blocks of type ready for the printing press.

The poem describes how Stevens, having placed a jar on a Tennessee hill, realised that the tall, round object tamed the encircling wilderness and "took dominion everywhere". But Aramjani makes no attempt to illustrate its commanding presence in the rest of his sculpture. He builds an abstract cluster of wood, aluminium and stained-glass forms above, and they

suggest doors, windows or shutters rather than the "grey and bare" container perched on Stevens' eminence.

A similar leaning towards country rather than town might seem to lie behind Dan Graham's exhibit. Placed on the lawn outside the gallery, it juxtaposes steel-framed sheets of glass with neat rows of blue Lawson cypress trees. Their foliage provides shelter for anyone sitting on the bench in the centre, but this air of rural serenity is disrupted by the perceptual confusion which Graham generates in the glass.

Two-way mirrors offer arresting reflections even as they supply indirect evidence of other visitors and the parkland behind. A continually teasing labyrinth is created here, and its connections with the

mirrored complexity of glass office buildings indicate that Graham's starting point probably rests in urban experience after all.

Matt Mullican, who displays large-format colour transparencies, "duratrans", in light boxes inside the gallery, focuses unequivocally on the city. Deploying garish computer-generated colour, which may owe something to the brilliant light of his native California, he presents a disturbingly uninhabited world of multi-storey blocks, empty boulevards and even a domed, temple-like edifice in pillar-box red.

Despite their functional appearance, Mullican's alienating vistas do not refer to real places. They were never meant to be built and

imply instead that architecture organises society with remote, impersonal efficiency.

There is no room, in such a spotless but desiccated locale, for the people who might give it life. They are banished as firmly as in Julian Opie's nearby painted wood structure, which seems at first to encourage exploration of its maze-like passages. White on the outside and coloured within, this coolly perverse work ends up rebuffing investigation altogether. The passages, too narrow to be walked through, finally promote a painful awareness of exclusion.

Humanity no longer has a role to play in this clinical setting and a related sense of vacancy runs through an elaborate contribution by Langlands and Bell. The sources they rely on for *Ivrea*, where ten

immaculate models of architectural plans are joined in a white-lacquered frieze, could hardly be more diverse. Olivetti's headquarters hovers above a welfare centre, while a machine tool factory hangs alongside multiple family houses for workers.

Whatever their function, and differences in layout, the delicately constructed wood reliefs all end up as testaments to social control. Even a combined community hall and restaurant looks unsettling, divorced from the needs of the people for whom it was designed.

At last, a solitary figure is discernible in the centre of Thomas Schütte's enigmatic contribution. But this strange, gaunt presence, precariously balanced on a tripod and swathed in rudimentary fabric, remains divorced from the two flanking parts of the sculpture.

Here, packing-case structures act as plinths for painted models reminiscent of stage-sets. Ladders lead nowhere while a colossal red fruit presides over a landscape, as Schütte conjures up his own universe with a playful absurdity worthy of Miro.

The entire ensemble seems fragile and could easily be broken by a couple of blows from the real axe lodged so aggressively in the rough planks of Ludwig Gerdes's exhibit. By contrasting his axe with a flimsy little building on the other side of the work, Gerdes appears to be commenting that architecture relies on the decimation of natural resources. But his intentions remain obscure and I much preferred the deceptively plain-spoken contributions of Gerdes's fellow countryman, Jürgen Albrecht.

From the outside, his three thin, horizontal wall-pieces could hardly look duller. In grey cardboard, they resemble dour resumés of minimalist concerns. All this uncompromising restraint, however, acts as a foil for the quieter revelations inside each of Albrecht's pieces.

They open at one end, letting visitors peer inside. Subtly placed incisions in the cardboard allow bars of soft, paper-filtered light to irradiate these otherwise dark corridors. The effect is astonishingly seductive, re-enacting with the simplest of means the profound gratification which real architectural interiors can provide.

Like nothing else in Tennessee continues at the Serpentine Gallery, Kensington Gardens, London W2 071-402 60751, daily 10am-6pm, until April 26. Admission free

THEATRE

And next week, Manchester

The door bursts open and Alain Boublil hurries in, hot foot from Paris where he has been taking another look at the French production of *Les Misérables*, theatrical phenomenon of our time. Since 1985 this operatic pageant of life and death on the barricades, for which he wrote the book and original French lyrics, and Claude-Michel Schönberg the music, has swept round the world.

Productions have been mounted in umpteen countries, and triumphed everywhere except in Sweden. Is it 20 productions? Thirty? If not yet 30, it eventually will be, as Boublil and his partners, with Cameron Mackintosh, the guiding force, tick off the cities yet to be visited by the wide-eyed wail gazing out from a microphone. Next week it is the turn of Manchester, where a production that already carries £4 million in advance bookings opens at the Palace Theatre. In London the show still plays to capacity in its seventh year.

The hub of this worldwide enterprise is Mackintosh's offices in Bloomsbury. Boublil closes the front door, nods to the women at the desk and leads the way to a room on the top floor. He speaks rapidly, with a precise, elegantly inflected accent that might have made him a recording star in the days when a French accent was the royal route to an Englishwoman's heart. On the walls hang colour prints of mobs wielding sticks which, he quickly points out, illustrate the French Revolution that everyone knows about, whereas the revolution Victor Hugo brought into his novel *Les Mis* is the one of 1830.

However, that better-known revolution was the subject of the first musical Boublil and Schönberg wrote together. "I was in New York and I saw *Jesus Christ Superstar*, which suddenly showed me that the

Jeremy Kingston meets Alain Boublil, the lyricist half of a team that created the musicals *Miss Saigon* and *Les Misérables*, whose success is now almost worldwide



Boublil: *Jesus Christ Superstar* was a turning point

musical theatre was not in the hands of the old American geniuses telling American stories. The shows I was seeing - they are wonderful. I was saying to myself, 'but there is

nothing for me there. I don't relate.' "I could see there was something different in *Jesus Christ Superstar*. The people behind that show had opera, classical and pop roots. The way the music was written and the way the lyrics were written was coming from a world that was the same as the world I was coming from, and the world Claude-Michel was coming from.

"Suddenly it was not the typical American musical with a dance routine in the middle, and with an American setting, and with a jazzy score. It was not something that only the Americans could do. This was

the message I received that night. There could be a European musical. So I walked the New York streets and found the idea of the French Revolution. I talked to Claude-Michel and that's how we started to write our first musical.

A production of the show at the Palais des Sports, Paris, in 1973 was followed by the first version of *Les Misérables*, and three years later a friend played the recording of that show to Cameron Mackintosh, despite his protest that a French musical was a contradiction in terms.

After 20 minutes of the record he was convinced of the musical's theatricality. Then began the discussions that led to the creation of the second version with the Royal Shakespeare Company at the Barbican, directed by Trevor Nunn and John Caird.

"*Les Misérables* took ten years to become its London version and it is still growing. Herbert Kretzmer, who has written the English lyrics, says that they are one-third a translation of my French lyrics, one-third a loose adaptation, where he is following the emotion, and the third third is what we can call a new creation.

"Songs such as 'Stars' and 'Valjean's 'Bring him Home' did not exist in the first French version and were directly written in English. So for the new French production, which is now in Paris, I have been altering my own first songs, translating Herbie's songs into French, and I have been changing and creating new things in a few scenes which are now - and his voice becomes that of a conjurer bringing yet another rabbit from the hat - 'being translated by Herbie back into English and will be in Manchester.'"

An altered song for the young Epontine will not be included, but perhaps this will arrive later, as the Manchester changes are incorporated into the London production, or into productions elsewhere. Copenhagen, Prague and Madrid will be seeing the show for the first time this year and the film version is already being prepared. Perhaps even Stockholm will be offered a second chance.

Les Misérables opens at the Palace Theatre, Manchester (061-236 9922) on Tuesday

TELEVISION REVIEW

Comic relief in triple measure

What better pastime on election night than to watch an animated paper figure being sliced, stretched, squeezed, smudged and otherwise abused by a vindictive live-action hand? This was *Manipulation*, by Daniel Greaves, one of three British animated films bunched together in *Treble Top* (BBC2), a programme half-buried beneath repeats, comedy spots, rabbiting pundits and politicians, and the mighty neon swingometer.

Their tenuous link was that they had all been blessed by nominations or awards: Greaves's delicious jest, made for Tandem Films, won this year's Oscar for the best animated short. This was not the film to take British animation across new frontiers: by featuring interplay between an animated figure and its live-action creator, Greaves harked back to the Twenties and Max Fleischer's "Out of the Inkwell" series, where Koko the Clown emerged from an ink

blob to scamper round Fleischer's studio.

Yet it was a genuine pleasure to see an old-fashioned conceit resurrected with such excellent timing and verve. The soundtrack played a crucial role, from the squelches that accompanied the little man's games with some spilt red paint to a symphony of thuds, squishes and boings. At the end of the battle, the man dumbled free of his manipulator's wastepaper basket and stood briefly on the edge with a "Howzat!" smile: an uncertain finish, although unless you go for some Tom and Jerry brouhaha, ending cartoons has never been easy.

Greaves, a bright new talent, has grasped early the virtues of simplicity. Not so Ken Lidster, whose clay animation *Balloon* - the recent winner of the Baffa award for best animated short - tied itself in knots chasing a contrived story with a fussy array of styles.

First came a pouting girl, with cute squiggles of yellow hair and an adored red balloon. Then up popped an evil, cackling black-and-white clown, who carried away her pride and joy to a land of Heath Robinson torture machines. The girl ventured in pursuit, became trapped and was rescued by - you guessed right, dear reader: Technicality, Lidster has much to offer,

though he needs to stop showing off. A clean break from claustrophobic whimsy would help, too.

Peter Lord's *Adam*, a Baffa nominee, gave us another barrage of soundtrack squelches and another battle between creator and created. In place of the gloved hand in *Manipulation* came the live-action hand of God, plunking down a bewildered clay homo sapiens atop the earth's globe. Unlike its famous *Armand Animation* sublimely *Crature Comforts*, no dialogue adorned this droll clay figure: in its place came over-insistent music, poking us in the ears.

Lord's pleasant fun and games reached an absurd anti-dimax when God scooped out some clay, fashioned a mate and set down not Eve but a blinking penguin. Adam's face fell, but he decided to make the best of things. On election night, what else can you do?

GEOFF BROWN

CLASSICAL MUSIC

There's no substitute for a party

The price on my ticket for the Philharmonia Orchestra concert last Monday read £35. The original justification for such a figure, Carlo Maria Giulini was, unhappily, indisposed and Yevgeny Svetlanov was the substitute conductor.

Most at home in the Tchaikovsky which constituted the first half, Svetlanov nevertheless did nothing very remarkable with the Polonaise from *Eugene Onegin*, scarcely moving a muscle. Admittedly, there is nothing very remarkable you can do with the piece anyway, except to play it fast and crisp, which it seems the way Svetlanov likes most things.

After this opener we were given Tchaikovsky's Symphony No 2, "Little Russian". The same applied: a perfectly acceptable, brightly coloured, taut and generally brisk performance.

Svetlanov and Debussy, however, is a mixture to be relished like fish and chips and fine Burgundy. Both have their appeal, but not together. In the *Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune* one was forced quickly to understand that for Svetlanov Debussy cannot stand still and rely on its own atmosphere. For all the technically excellent playing on display (particularly from the principal flautist Kenneth Smith) and despite the innate



Oliver Knussen: he shone in the role of conductor

richness of ensemble, the work seemed hurried, its colours clumsily blended, its phrases insufficiently languid for the hazy haze of a summer's afternoon to be conveyed convincingly by them.

And just the same over-eagerness and inability to allow the music its proper context disguised the mystery and majesty of *La Mer*. Climaxes, for instance that at the end of the first piece, "De l'aube à midi sur la mer", erupted with the excitement of a fireworks display, rather than with the natural power Debussy intended.

Conductor and music were more at one the following evening, when the London Sinfonietta's latest contribution to the 1911-1920 sector of Simon Rattle's "Towards the Millennium" series took the form of a party at which the pieces invited represented a wide cross-section of styles and intentions. Rattle himself was absent, by force of design rather than of fate, but Oliver Knussen staked his own claims of conducting excellence with a lively and lucid account of Prokofiev's "Classical" Symphony to launch the evening. At the other end of the concert, Manuel de Falla's *El amor brujo* proved an equally friendly guest, with the mezzo Mary King relishing the chance to show off her dark, chesty Iberian manner

again was with an antithesis, the atmospheric excess of Charles Ives's "Washington's Birthday", with its complex soundscape of sustained, weird string chords, its jew's harps, its tumbling, ghostly reminiscences of famous old tunes, its brash climaxes. And you could not hold such a party without asking that most versatile of guests, Stravinsky, so room was found for Shostakovich to sing elegantly with a small mixed chamber group the Three Japanese Lyrics of 1912 and the Two Poems of Balloons of 1911, music whose refinement was as far away from *The Rite of Spring* as you could get.

STEPHEN PETTITT

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Bricks, bullets and Beirut

Parts of the city once known as "the Paris of the Middle East" are to be razed for redevelopment. Can the spirit of old Beirut survive? Adam Kelliher reports

Where the war-blasted remains of downtown Beirut meet the Mediterranean sits the planned site of the city's renaissance: a looming, smelly peninsula of garbage.

The outcrop along the sweeping bay in which once rested one of the world's most elegant cities is expanded daily with contributions by municipal dump trucks. None of this inspires much attention at the adjacent St George's Motor Yacht Club, where the smart set strut, carouse and waterski.

"Half of us have money and half don't, and I am in the right half," said an affluent car salesman named Abed, as he languorously viewed nearby rag pickers from his sunbed. "Lebanon is the only country in the world where if you want to do anything, you can do it. Everything has a price tag."

In line with these principles, the fragrant mountain of refuse is to be transformed into prime real estate. It will be the starting point of a grandiose vision to erase within a decade the physical results of the 16 year long civil war that Syria forced to an end in October 1990. The downtown area, a basin in the inner city that was once a hazardous domain for snipers and their targets, is being razed by bulldozers and dynamite, despite opposition by various groups to the reconstruction strategy.

A lot of imagination is needed to see the heart of Beirut re-acquiring its sobriquet, the Paris of the Middle East. The place is more akin to post second world war Dresden. The green line marking the sectarian divide between Muslim west and Christian east sliced straight through the inner city. Alternative wartime capitals arose on either side of the divide, but none managed to supplant the contested heart of the city.

By every account, old Beirut was a magnificent city, of stone-arched alleyways and red-roofed mansions, Ottoman fountains and

grand civic buildings in the best French imperial style. The grandeur was largely the result of profitable European trade with Syria after France pledged to protect Lebanese Christians in 1861. More disastrous than the war's physical damage, was the loss of what Beirut's heart represented. The city was the grand melting pot of the Levant, where Druze, Maronite Christians, Shia Muslims, Armenians, anyone in fact, worked and lived and overcame tribal and religious rivalries.

Today, the two square mile swathe of destroyed inner city is caught in a strange time warp of 1975, with movie posters, advertisements and fixtures dating from the year the futile business began. Within the endless blocks of blasted boutiques, department stores, restaurants and offices are a labyrinth of firing positions from which rival gunmen blazed away at each other. Although entire high rise buildings have been chiselled away by ordinance, ornate ironwork and classic facades, can still be glimpsed. And the rubble still holds memories.

"You see over there," said Noor Mohammad, a taxi driver, gesturing to a blitzed alleyway, "that was the Khat Club, where we used to dance. Down further was the red light district, where the sailors would go. You cannot imagine how beautiful it all once was."

The new vision of Beirut looks something like Docklands with palm trees. Under a plan forwarded by the Council for Development and Reconstruction (CDR), and backed by a coterie of property developers, politicians and cronies of the Syrian-installed government, the city will largely be bulldozed into the sea on top of the rubbish dump. This man-made piece of seaside property would be shaped into an 800,000 square metre island and sold to the private sector. These funds would be used to pay the estimated US\$350 million required for new streets, water, power and communications.

The goal is highly ambitious for a city known more for random death. Everything could be suddenly undone by the Middle East peace process unravelling; Christian, Palestinian or Hezbollah adventurism; or a power struggle in Syria if President Hafez Assad's mortality



War remains: the Martyrs Square statue for nationalists hanged by Ottoman rulers and (below) an artist's impression of plans for a palm-lined downtown Beirut

With this civic infrastructure in place, ensuing reconstruction will then be at the mercy of investor confidence. The CDR says US\$12 billion has been pledged by various property magnates. Instrumental is the involvement of Rafik Hariri, a Lebanese billionaire enriched by projects in Saudi Arabia, who wants to be known as the man who resurrected Beirut. His aides say Mr Hariri has spent US\$20 million in feasibility studies.

Should full-scale redevelopment commence, facilities will include a 40-storey world trade centre, a concert hall, a national library, a cultural palace, and a marina.

Officials say they wish to preserve some of old Beirut. The plan includes restoration of stable buildings of architectural merit, namely the old souks, the ornate facades of the old banking district, and importantly, mosques and churches. Architectural styles have yet to be finalised, but the outcome will certainly be modernist.

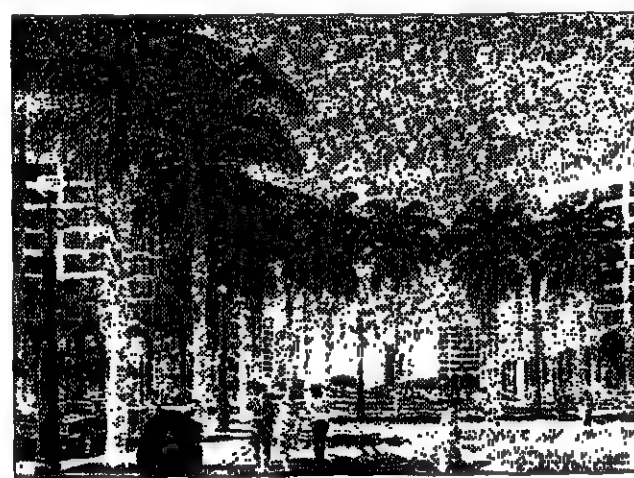
The goal is highly ambitious for a city known more for random death. Everything could be suddenly undone by the Middle East peace process unravelling; Christian, Palestinian or Hezbollah adventurism; or a power struggle in Syria if President Hafez Assad's mortality

is proven. Henri Edde, the project director, is calling for prompt action before squatters take residence in the inner city's ruins. Legions of homeless have overrun districts near the airport, preventing large-scale redevelopment.

"I can't accept the attitude of wait and see. We have to force our own destiny," says Mr Edde, a respected architect who has designed several large modernist buildings in Lebanon. "If people will not invest, Beirut will remain as it is."

That the ultimate conquerors of one of the world's most bitterly contested stretches of real estate are not ambitious warlords but rapacious property developers may be a fitting end to the war. But rebuilding is fraught with the same divisions that caused the strife.

Many Christians hold property deeds for the devastated zone. Their opposition to the CDR is near uniform, mostly because they con-



sider the council tainted by its linkage to the Syrians.

The project will alter the sensitive demographic balance of the strategic downtown area that lies between east and west Beirut," warned Rima Tarabay, of the Christian Lebanese Forces militia. Property owners will have to accept shares in a real estate company appropriating property to carry out the scheme. Compensation will be set by government evaluation committees, a move Mr Edde says is crucial if investors are

not to be scared away by excessive tenancy rights. One of the most vehement opponents is Yvonne Lady Cochrane, the widow of an Irish lord whose profits as a merchant enabled him to purchase vast chunks of pre-war east Beirut. Lady Cochrane lives in a gothic chateau set in a vast garden overlooking Beirut port, its grandeur matched by an air of decay. A sweeping external marble staircase is cracked and chipped, patches on inside walls show where oil paintings were once displayed. Lady Cochrane, a polyglot of Italian descent, believes that the CDR's plans are merely a way to "speculate at our expense. The whole country would theoretically be owned by a company. Can you imagine such a thing? There will be a revolution when people realise that their property has been taken and the shares are worthless."

Mr Edde counters that pleasing everyone in Lebanon has never

been easy. He thinks the plan will prove the intentions of Syria, which presumably wants Beirut revived so Lebanon can again start making more money for Damascus.

Much of the opposition is because landlords wish away the war, and want nothing less than compensation at a 1975 property price, adjusted to subsequent inflation. Investment pledges have mostly come from Sunni Muslims, such as Mr Hariri, but the plan gets little backing from Shia Muslims, who largely live in Beirut's southern ghettos and justly believe they are given scant attention by the government. The Druze, the other major clan, also have misgivings.

Despite the volley of complaints, the combination of the Syrians and the high level patrons backing the scheme virtually guarantees its progress.

Whatever the outcome, one civic fixture that will survive is the monument in Martyrs Square for nationalists hanged by Ottoman rulers during the first world war. Like everything else in downtown Beirut, the bronze statues have been punched through with bullets and shrapnel.

Perhaps if the physical evidence of more recent bloodshed is erased, bitter memories may also recede.

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Remains to be decided

Most people in Britain choose to be cremated but finding somewhere to scatter the ashes can be tricky



Burning issues: traditional scattering of ashes on water

Authority if they wish to cast the ashes on a river, unless they are prepared to go out three miles to sea.

Football pitches, the winning posts at Aintree and Lords cricket ground (for those who are honorary life members) are popular spots. Jason Edwards's father was a keen fisherman and when he died his son scattered his ashes over the Thames in Oxfordshire. "He hadn't made any plans but it seemed appropriate to let him end his days with the fish," he says. He admits that many of his family disagreed.

Susan Crosland, in her biography of her husband Tony Crosland, the former Labour foreign secretary, explains the difficulties of scattering her husband's ashes over the North Sea while a gale was

blowing and the boat was filling with water. "Each handful that I threw into the sea was returned by the gale," she wrote. Eventually she had to throw in the whole urn.

David Adams believes that people should not be deterred from scattering ashes and should not be too squeamish. He spent four years training to be registrar of the crematories and crematorium department for Southend borough council. "If scattered liberally, ashes are nutritious for the soil and are totally safe, all they are are calcinated bones," he says. "They are also environmentally sound because they do not take up any room and return nutrients to the soil. The bodies go in at 1,000 degrees centigrade so I can guarantee the ashes are sterile and they

do not give off an odour."

About 2 per cent of Mr Adams's clients decide to scatter the ashes somewhere original. Mr Adams feels that people don't like to think about the remains while they are still grieving and many relatives decide only later that they might like to scatter the ashes somewhere else. By this time it is normally too late. After a month, many crematoria have planted the ashes in gardens of remembrance and a licence from the Home Office is needed to dig them up. If people do want to keep the ashes, Mr Adams will send them in a sealed plastic case by recorded delivery.

Janet Haddington, the chair of the National Association of Bereavement Services, feels that scattering the ashes has a therapeutic effect on the bereaved. "Many of the bereaved leave it up to the crematorium and are left disgruntled and unhappy," she says. "Then when they want to, they can't find the rosebush under which their deceased was buried or they are too embarrassed to ask. Those who take their ashes with them and scatter them in memorable places usually recover more quickly."

One Asian woman, Ms Haddington knows, kept her husband's ashes for a year to comfort her and then took them to India and scattered them on the Ganges; another family took the ashes of their father, who had been a lorry driver, and scattered them on the Great North Road. "You have to make sure there is agreement on the place and it is not a good idea to keep the ashes at home for too long otherwise they can become like a shrine," Ms Haddington says. She would like her ashes scattered over the Yorkshire Dales.

No one will ever outdo Queen Artemisia. When her husband Mausolus, a satrap of Caria in Asia Minor, died in 353 BC, she built a monument to house his ashes at Halicarnassus which was so splendid that it was regarded by the ancients as one of the seven wonders of the world. She was also said to have kept a few to sprinkle on her wine every evening as a tribute to his memory.

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Learning to become life savers

Ann Kent reports on a conference on cot death where parents and scientists met to discuss how best to avoid bereavement

Two very different groups of interested parties can be found at conferences on cot death: the bereaved parents and the scientists.

They mixed uneasily last week-end at the first national conference held by the Foundation for the Study of Infant Deaths (FSID). A silence fell over the audience of 300 — half of them parents — as Dr Ruth Wigfield described the disastrous effects of advice given to mothers from the early 1970s onwards.

Dr Wigfield, a research fellow at the University of Bristol, explained that studies carried out at that time on all premature babies showed they found it easier to breathe if they were laid down to sleep in the prone position (on their fronts). It eased the breathing in a tiny minority of infants whose lungs and chests were undeveloped, and made them less likely to inhale vomit.

"It was felt that this advice would benefit all babies, and as it was widely adopted cot deaths became more common in Britain, New Zealand and Sweden," Dr Wigfield said. She became involved in investigating the increase because the county of Avon, where she is based, had a higher-than-average cot death rate.

On questioning parents, the research team discovered an almost ninefold increase in risk of cot death when the baby slept prone. As a result, Avon changed its advice on sleeping position in the late 1980s: cot death rates dropped from 3.5 per thousand in the late 1980s to 1.7 per thousand in 1991. "The change in sleeping position can almost completely account for the fall in deaths," Dr Wigfield said.

Researchers in Avon made a point of contacting bereaved parents involved in the study to warn them, in advance of publication in the medical journals, of their findings.

The foundation started the campaign to reverse the advice that babies should sleep on their fronts last October. The health department started issuing the same message at the beginning of this year. Everyone attending the week-end conference must have already

known about the appalling error. But it was one thing to read about it and quite another to hear about it sitting in a room full of parents, all remembering the moment when they found their baby had died in its cot or pram.

There was no emotional scene, simply a chilly silence as the audience concentrated on what Dr Wigfield had to tell them. She told the meeting that she believed all parents of newborn babies should lie them on their backs and continue to do so until they reached the point where they chose their own sleeping posture, at the age of five or six months. The side position, which some parents adopt as a compromise, is two or three times more dangerous than sleeping on the back, although less risky than the prone position.

Dr Wigfield's audience of parents did not question this shifting of goalposts, or Dr Wigfield's essentially accurate statement that "it is exciting and rewarding to see research working, and to have fewer babies dying". They were there to learn. Scientists and parents share a common aim in seeking to understand cot death. But their agendas are very different.

Sudden infant death syndrome is not a diagnosis, but another way of saying 'we don't know'

Parents at the conference listened to the scientists' clinical descriptions of sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) in an attempt to make sense of what had happened in their own families. The credibility of the scientists depended on finding the right theory — and there have been many wrong ones — to explain the annual UK death toll of 1,400 infants. SIDS is not a diagnosis, but merely another way of saying "we don't know".

With cot death there are no signs and symptoms and nothing much to be found from post-mortem tests on the baby. The scientists depend on the cooperation of recently bereaved parents willing to recall every detail of their baby's last hours, and their childcare routines. It was thanks to this assistance that the scientists have made a partial breakthrough.

People who are less emotionally involved than the parents attending the conference may wonder



Sleeping more safely? Babies on their backs are less likely to succumb to cot death, although body temperature and respiratory viruses are also possible causes

whether they should follow the new guidelines. But over the last few years the evidence about sleeping position has built up from a number of different studies. It makes sense in a way which the 1970s advice did not. The new advice is simply the old guidance, followed for centuries and still routine in parts of the world with lower cot death rates than our own, that babies sleep on their backs.

Have the 19 years of research funded by the FSID at a cost of £6 million simply taken us round in a circle? In fact, the conference heard that a number of other advances have been made in the struggle to whittle down the numbers of babies who succumb. But the work involved some fairly advanced physiological investigations, which suggest causes rather than cures.

Dr Stewart Petersen, for example, described how babies' night time sleeping temperatures switch

from a newborn to an adult pattern at two to three months of age. Dr Petersen, a lecturer in physiology at the University of Leicester, has found that late developers show a similar profile to cot death babies: they are more likely to be boys, bottle fed, with young, poorer mothers, and to sleep prone. (In fact three boys die of cot death for every two girls, breastfed babies also succumb, and while cot deaths are more common in the poorer socio-economic groups, nearly half the cases come from social classes I, II and III and can be born to mothers of any age.)

The complex links between body temperature and erratic breathing patterns were also explored — although cause and effect cannot be proven. Everybody gasped when they heard how one baby girl managed to maintain a normal body temperature while sleeping in a room temperature of 27°C wear-

ing several layers of clothing, under an adult quilt folded four times. Many researchers feel that some vulnerable babies have less efficient temperature control mechanisms and that these babies are at increased risk of SIDS if they are overwrapped. Lying prone is thought to make it more difficult for an infant to shed heat.

Another research area considered promising by the scientists was respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), one of the commonest causes of lower respiratory tract infection in infants. Pathologists are now able to detect traces of the virus in post-mortem specimens and RSV is believed to have been implicated in some cot death cases. Research from Avon and North Somerset has shown, however, that viral infection does not appear to be a risk factor on its own. Cot death

rates increase when babies with signs of infection are also overwrapped.

Such information contributes to the understanding of the disease process and may be useful one day. For bereaved parents, it must have been of purely academic interest.

Joyce Epstein, the secretary general of FSID, was keen to stress that we had not reached the end of the cot death story. She wants to see the new advice scientifically assessed to see if it is being put into effect, and if it really does make a difference. The foundation's advice to parents, apart from placing babies on their back or side to sleep, is to make sure they do not get too hot, to stop smoking, to avoid taking babies into smoky atmospheres and to contact your doctor if you think the baby is unwell.

Parents who attended the conference had considered and accepted the risk that unhappy memories

would rise to the surface. Nobody can be blamed for the fact that medical research is unable to account for a problem which has blighted the happiness of families for centuries. At least the problem is now discussed openly and no longer automatically attributed to overlying (when a baby is accidentally suffocated while in bed with parents) or thought to be a sly form of infanticide.

A group of mothers, discussing their feelings between sessions agreed their grief had been most effectively relieved by having another baby. Not just to refill the empty cot, or to give them someone else to love, they said, but to restore their confidence as parents who could raise babies, just like their mothers, sisters and neighbours.

Foundation for the Study of Infant Deaths, 35 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8QB (071 235 0961) Helpline: 071 235 1721.

Walk on — but calmly

GRAEME SOUNESS will probably be in hospital for eight to ten days after his triple bypass operation and then will spend three months recuperating in order to be able to join the Liverpool team when they restart training in July. How should he spend the next three months so that he may thereafter have the best chance of a long, healthy and fulfilling life?

Three hundred delegates met at a symposium arranged by the Harley Street Clinic in London last week to discuss rehabilitation after coronary thrombosis, or major heart surgery. There was universal agreement that a carefully planned return to full physical activities, and hence to a normal lifestyle, had great psychological advantages for the patient.

Patients who had undergone a supervised rehabilitation course felt better, more confident, took pride in their achievements and were more likely to return to their previous work. It was generally accepted, too, that any rehabilitation programme needed to be carefully structured and should include arrangements for the monitoring of the health of the patient throughout.

The experts found it more difficult to agree as to whether a return to a vigorous lifestyle would necessarily reduce the risk of a recurrence of the heart problem and



MEDICAL BRIEFING
Dr Thomas Stuttaford

therefore lead to a longer life. A cardiologist explained that although the rehabilitation course might ensure that the limb muscles became stronger and more efficient, these changes were not always matched by similar improvements in heart function: indeed, the damaged heart might not always be able to cater for the increased demands made on it by a strong pair of legs as they pounded along the pavements. Ideally, rehabilitation needs to be supervised and tailored for the individual patient, a service that could prove too expensive for the ordinary coronary care unit.

The news that Mr Souness needed a bypass at the age of 38 as he had already had one undetected heart attack, and that he also had one coronary artery which was 90 per cent blocked and another 70 per cent, sent a shudder through any early

morning joggers who might have convinced themselves, and others, that the key to a clean coronary artery is regular violent physical exercise.

Mr Souness played first-class football from 1972 to 1990 and since he became manager of Liverpool has prided himself on keeping as fit as his team. He does an hour's hard physical training each day, and plays five-a-side football at least three times a week. He has watched his diet, doesn't smoke cigarettes and drinks in the strictest moderation. The Souness case illustrates that there is a limit to the problems that exercise alone can overcome. Mr Souness has inherited the wrong genes and there is little we can do about our ancestors: his uncle died of a coronary thrombosis at the age of 35 and his father has also had a bypass.

Mr Souness has a raised blood pressure but perhaps most important of all he has a type A, competitive personality. He admits to being fiercely competitive since the age of 11 and now every minute of the day is filled, he is ambitious and always plays to win. Rehabilitation for Mr Souness should not only include graduated physical exercises, carefully monitored, but should also contain advice on how to become more of a type B personality, relaxed and easy going.

Separate disorders

DESPITE a few well publicised difficulties, the Ashdowns and the Clintons have stayed together, and in doing so they may have preserved their health as well as their marriages and political careers. Divorce can prove fatal.

One-Plus-One, a research group from the Central Mid-diesex hospital, has produced a report entitled *Marital Breakdown and the Health of the Nation*. The research, reviewed in *Doctor* magazine, showed that people with marital problems are nearly three times more likely to go in the first instance to their GP to seek help than to marriage counsellors or social workers.

Dr Jack Dominian, the director of One-Plus-One, estimates that 70 per cent of patients have social or psychological problems — in women mainly due to personal relationships, although in men this came second to problems at work. Divorced patients are four times more likely to commit suicide, and up to six times more likely to be admitted to a mental hospital. Divorce is an important



factor in assessing the risk of coronary arterial disease and strokes. Divorced men under 55 are twice as likely to have a coronary and nearly three times as likely to have a stroke as those who stay married. Nor should divorced women necessarily think that they will be "better off without him", because although their arterial health is not as vulnerable as men's to divorce, the incidence of cardiovascular disease is 50 per cent higher than in married women.

Cancer as well as heart disease is more common in the divorced, and the chances of survival if one or other does develop are reduced. Cancers of the throat, the lungs, the guts, the bladder and in men the prostate are all more likely. Inevitably statistics of this sort fail to distinguish between those whose character or behaviour initially contributed to the divorce and those whose health was undermined after it by neglect, loneliness, diet, drinking and smoking.

More than a speed trap

THE policeman lurking behind the shrubs on the lay-by with a radar gun may be sacrificing more than he thinks as he battles to stop motorists speeding — his testes may be in danger.

The journal *Cancer Weekly* reports that seven of the 244 policemen in Grand Rapids and Wyoming in the United States who wield the gun have later developed cancer of the testes: one is suing the manufacturer.

Radar guns are not the only devices that have recently come under suspicion. In Britain a doctor practising near the television and radio transmitter at Solihull reports that in one practice with 2,600 patients, seven have developed leukaemia or lymphoma. All but one lived within 1,500 metres of the transmitter for at least 14 years and strangely the practice did not have any patients with these diseases outside this range.

Policemen, and West Midlands, can probably rest assured — medical research is frequently confused, and patients alarmed, by statistical flukes.

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF "CHILDREN OF A LESSER GOD."

A story about a surgeon who became an ordinary patient and then became an extraordinary man.

WILLIAM HURT

THE DOCTOR

STARTS TODAY

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AND AT SELECTED CINEMAS ACROSS THE COUNTRY FROM APRIL 17

Yoga can be as punishing as any Olympic sport, as Liz Hodgkinson discovered

When I ripped and tore my gut and put my back out, I was doing advanced postures such as the *cobra*, whereby you lie on your stomach and arch the back in order to touch your head with your toes.

The other yoga fact is that although about 80 per cent of practitioners in the West are women, it was originally designed more than 2,000 years ago for men's bodies, which are generally

each other, but it's hard to stop people competing against themselves, trying to achieve a posture that has defeated them."

There are special dangers, he says, for women. "You'll notice in most yoga classes that the women are far more supple than the men. But that extra male stiffness is actually a protection against injury in yoga. One of the reasons men are less supple is because they have

There are special dangers, he says, for women. "You'll notice in most yoga classes that the women are far more supple than the men. But that extra male stiffness is actually a protection against injury in yoga. One of the reasons men are less supple is because they have



stronger muscles, and strong muscles are more difficult to bend."

A good teacher should point all this out. Dr Munro says, and should also watch to see whether any members of the class are straining themselves beyond their limits. Although it is good to push yourself at first, the idea behind yoga is to stretch without pushing or straining.

As with most exercise classes, anybody can set up as a yoga teacher without having any proper training. Injuries are less likely to happen when teachers have trained with a recognised school, but of course they can never be ruled out.

Established schools of high-level yoga such as Iyengar and Sivananda, which are extremely serious, insist on proper training programmes for their teachers. The British Wheel of Yoga, which runs classes all over the country, is gentle and relaxing, and would appeal

more to people wanting to reduce stress.

"Most of the clinical studies have taken place with gentle forms of yoga," Dr Munro says. "We now need to carry out trials with postural yoga, to see just how health benefits it can bring."

● **More information and advice on classes from The Yoga Biomedicine Centre, 140, Cambridge Circus (PU) (encluse large size).**

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A conference next week will try to bring lupus, the killer illness, out into the open

'In some ways, it is the opposite of Aids'

Among the scientists at next week's conference will be Dr Robert Lahita, the director of rheumatology at St Luke's Hospital in Manhattan and chairman of the board of the Lupus Foundation of America.

SALLY BROMPTON
Times Newspapers Limited 1992

[illegible]

French cars are catching up

The third force nudging Ford and Vauxhall over the next few years may not be Japanese, as the British motor industry has feared. So many eyes have been focused on the expansion of Japanese manufacturers that few have noticed the quiet progress of the company that has nudged Rover out of its position in the new car market.

PSA, the manufacturer of Peugeot and Citroën, is now the third biggest company selling in the United Kingdom. While Rover has fallen by the wayside so far this year, figures from the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders show the Peugeot and Citroën marques defying the recession and taking a record share of the market.

Peugeot, which makes the 405 mid-range model at Ryton, Coventry, has shot up in popularity and is accounting for 8.16 per cent of all sales. Alongside that has been the rapid development of Citroën, now taking just over 4 per cent of all new car sales in Britain.

Combine the two and PSA has a market share of 12.17 per cent in the first quarter of the year, up from 10 per cent at the same point last year and better than Rover's dwindling 11.96 per cent.

The rise and rise of PSA has been remarkable, yet unsurprising, given

While the Japanese worry British makers, France is making inroads, Kevin Eason says

the powerful range of small cars that the two companies now field against some tired-looking opposition.

Manufacturers that rely on big cars to help prop up sales figures have suffered because of the slump in the market for executive models. Rover, for example, launched its new 800 series right into the mire of an executive market down by 21 per cent this year, which is almost twice the rate of decline for the whole market.

By contrast, the market for small cars, such as the Rover Metro, is down by only 8.5 per cent and compact, like the Ford Escort, by 6.4 per cent — both areas in which Peugeot and Citroën are strongest.

Peugeot, for example, has its new "baby" 106, which looks head and shoulders above the competition, except for another French model, the Renault Clio, which remains

best in class. The 205, even after ten years on the market, refuses to look dated and still performs with the best.

Citroën, meanwhile, has relaunched its AX series, which is joined by the ZX, now one of the classiest compacts on the market.

Clever marketing has also played its part: take the ZX Volcano automatic, for example. This is Citroën's answer to the Escort XR3i, but an automatic? The convention is that nobody who buys a GT-style car wants a fuddy-duddy automatic gear change.

Citroën simply asks: Why not? Why not, indeed, because the Volcano is as lively as any car in its class yet perfect for crowded cities, where the driver, with no need for repetitious gear-changing, can relax. Even with more than 120bhp available to surge safely through overtaking, the Volcano is happy to bubble along in traffic.

Then there is the diesel factor. Diesel sales, which now take up to ten per cent of the market, have played right into the heart of PSA territory.

Catering to a home market where diesel has accounted for a third and more of sales for years has made PSA the leaders in the field. Apart from making engines for Peugeots and Citroëns, PSA



Citroën's answer to the Escort XR3i: the ZX Volcano is a lively and comfortable automatic

also supplies Rover, for example.

The diesel boom has rejuvenated Peugeot's 405 range, accounting for about half of all sales. As a result, the 405 was lifted to sixth place in the list of top ten best sellers in March.

Despite the gloom in the British industry, Ryton is relatively buoyant. Exports of the 405 are strong, accounting for almost 70 per cent of output, and the factory is

preparing to make a successor to the ageing 309 range, giving PSA another strong candidate for sales in the small car sector.

That is a far cry from the tortured 1970s, when Ryton, struggling against strikes, falling production and losses of £286 million, was owned by Chrysler. The Americans were reputedly so desperate to offload Ryton that they sold the business to PSA for a single dollar. Now

with a new model on the stocks at Ryton, PSA could consolidate its position as Britain's third force at the expense of Rover, giving the Japanese a tough act to beat.

● Citroën ZX Volcano automatic: price £13,096; engine 1.9-litre, fuel-injected four-cylinder offering 122bhp through a three-way catalytic converter and four-speed automatic gearbox; 0 to 100mph, 10.5 seconds; top speed 134mph; fuel consumption 25.5 mpg around town.

ROADWISE

Gas test saves cash

MOTORISTS worried that the new emission tests will cost them money for servicing are wrong, according to Fleet Management Services. The tests will actually increase the residual values of vehicles that have passed the emissions test, and cars with well-tuned engines will have fuel savings worth about £90 annually, says Derrick Perkins, Fleet Management Services' director.

Luton double

VAUXHALL's whose Cavalier is now Britain's best-selling car, celebrated two milestones this week at its main plant at Luton, Bedfordshire. Vauxhall has made 500,000 of the current model, and 100,000 of the cars, badged the Opel Vectra, were for export. Exports now account for four out of every ten cars from Luton and the destinations include Belgium, France, Germany and New Zealand, contributing £570 million to the balance of payments last year.

Flower power

BUS drivers refuelling in Copenhagen will soon be pumping rape seed oil instead of diesel into their vehicles. Five buses using the oil will start work in a joint experiment by farmers' unions, the city bus company and the Danish technological institute to cut carbon dioxide emissions. The farmers produce 300 million litres of rape seed oil annually and the buses need no modification for the fuel from the yellow-flowered plant.

● The rape seed oil is produced by farmers' unions, the city bus company and the Danish technological institute to cut carbon dioxide emissions. The farmers produce 300 million litres of rape seed oil annually and the buses need no modification for the fuel from the yellow-flowered plant.

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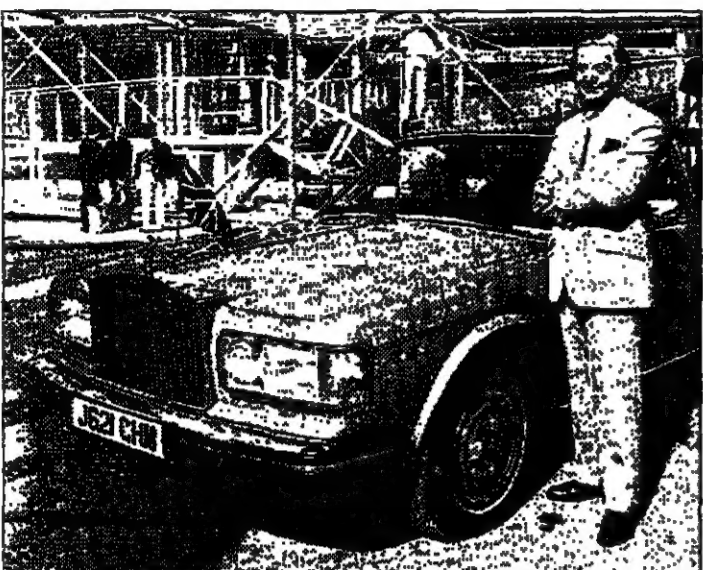
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Rolling to Seville in a Silver Spur

How the symbol of prestige, luxury and power was delivered to Expo '92



Flag-bearer: Sir John Ure and the £112,000 limousine

THE decision was enough to send a shudder through the flagpoles that keep the Union Jack proudly aloft in dozens of foreign lands. Kevin Eason writes. From now on, it was decreed, British ambassadors would no longer use the Rolls-Royce but some lesser mode of transport, a Jaguar perhaps.

The instruction from the men from the ministry acknowledged that times are hard indeed. Even if a Rolls signified all that was British in the most far-flung outpost, a £100,000-plus motor car was difficult to justify.

Imagine, then, the smile on the face of Sir John Ure, the UK Commissioner General at Expo '92 in Seville, Spain. He has a Rolls-Royce, which I delivered to him this week.

The manufacturer may be in

dire straits, with financial losses of £50 million, redundancies and sales down by a third, but this is a company that knows its place as the flagship of Britain's car industry. If Britain were to be represented with an £22 million pavilion at an international exposition, Rolls-Royce had to be there, too.

Sir John might have been transported everywhere in a humble Rover. Nothing wrong with that, but it is hardly the car for the occasion.

The Silver Spur II was born to the job, as I discovered negotiating the narrow streets of Seville on my way to find Sir John. Heads turned

everywhere and within 15 minutes the graceful car was becoming the most photographed in Spain.

I had volunteered to do my small bit for Britain by driving the car the 600 miles from Santander to Seville in a day. That sounds a tough proposition, but not at the wheel of a whispering, 6.8-litre giant. The trick is to smuggle back into the leather armchair of a driver's seat, flick the electronic automatic gearbox to drive, then simply point the car south.

Blizzards and rain failed to deflect the car from surging its way over mountain roads, sweeping through Madrid and on to Seville.

The only blip came from my heart as I saw the petrol gauge needle falling, with only 20 miles of Spanish countryside going past to every unleaded gallon.

The compensation was the overwhelming pleasure given to Spanish garage owners who, more used to dealing with tiny Seats and battered Fords, thought their birthday had arrived as the Rolls pulled onto the forecourt. One £50 fill-up was as good as the next five cars in line.

The smile was about as broad on Sir John's face at first sight of the silver Rolls, all £112,000 worth, which is his for the next six months to prove that Britain still provides the world with an exceptional car made by people who care about the tiny details. Then it is back to his Rover.

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Hearsay from drug buyers inadmissible

Regina v Kearley
Before Lord Griffiths, Lord Bridge of Harwich, Lord Ackner, Lord Oliver of Aylmerton and Lord Browne-Wilkinson
[Speeches April 8]

Evidence of telephone calls and calls in person to the appellant's house asking for drugs had been irrelevant or inadmissible as hearsay.

The House of Lords, Lord Griffiths dissenting, so stated in allowing an appeal by Alan Robert Michael Kearley from the Court of Appeal (Criminal Division) (Lord Justice Lloyd, Mr Justice Schiemann and Mr Justice Jowitt) (1990) 93 Cr App R 222, who on November 29, 1990, had dismissed his appeal against conviction at Bournemouth Crown Court (Judge Best and a jury) on counts of possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply, contrary to section 5(3) of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 (count 6), and possession of a controlled drug, contrary to section 5(2) (counts 7 and 8).

Mr Michael de Navarro, QC and Mr John Aspinall, for the appellant; Miss Ann Goddard, QC and Mr Roger Shawcross, for the Crown.

LORD ACKNER said that the appeal was concerned essentially with count 6, which had concerned a relatively small quantity of amphetamine not such as to give rise in itself to the inference that the appellant was a commercial supplier.

The appellant had given no evidence at his trial but in interviews with the police had consistently denied having anything to do with the supply of drugs. His case at trial had been that such drugs had not been found at his home had not been there with his knowledge.

The issue on count 6 relevant to the appeal had been whether, assuming that he had been in possession of the amphetamine, he had been in possession of it with intent to supply it to others.

The evidence sought to be given, and to which unsuccessful objection had been made at the trial, had been, in the terms of the question certified by the Court of Appeal as raising a point of law of general public importance, an oral request for drugs to be supplied by the appellant, which request had been (i) not spoken in the presence of the appellant; (ii) or in his appellant's hearing; (iii) or by a person called as a witness.

The certified question enquired whether such evidence might be given, not for the purpose of establishing the truth of any fact narrated by the words of the request but for the purpose of inferring from the fact that the words had been spoken that the appellant was a supplier of drugs.

The circumstances in which the request for drugs to which the certified question related had arisen had been that, following the appellant's arrest and when he had been either not at his home or not within earshot, a number of telephone calls had been made to his home that had been answered by the police in which the caller had enquired whether he could speak to "Chippie", the appel-

lant's nickname, and asked to be supplied with drugs.

Later, while the police had still been on the premises, a number of persons had arrived at the house, some with money, also asking to be supplied with drugs.

It was those requests that certain police officers had been allowed to recount in evidence. None of those who had made the enquiries was called by the prosecution.

Each of those requests had, of course, been evidence of the state of mind of the person making the request. He had wished to be supplied with drugs and had thought that the appellant would so supply him. It had not been evidence of the fact that the appellant had supplied or could or would supply the person making the request.

But the state of mind of the person making the request had not been an issue at the trial. Accordingly, evidence of his request had been irrelevant and therefore inadmissible.

Miss Goddard had maintained that the evidence of the requests for drugs to be supplied by the appellant had tended to show that the premises at which the request had been made were being used as a source of supply of drugs and that the supplier, that is, that the person who had been supplying the drugs, was the appellant.

She had accepted that a single request would not have provided evidence either that the premises were being used as a source of supply of drugs or that the appellant was the supplier. It could only have been evidence of the state of mind of the person making the request.

His Lordship could see no basis in logic or principle for valuing evidence of a single request as being more significant than evidence of a number of requests or requests would fundamentally have altered the situation.

The request or requests had contained neither an express nor an implied assertion that the person making the request had obtained drugs either from the premises or from the appellant in the past or had been told by the appellant, or his duly authorised agent, that he, the appellant, would satisfy his requirements for drugs if he phoned or called at the premises.

Indeed, the request or requests had not contained any factual assertion. They had asked a question: "Will you supply me with drugs?" thus by inference suggesting that they believed that he would supply what they requested.

The application of the hearsay rule did not, on the facts so far recited, fall for consideration. The evidence had not been admissible because it had been irrelevant. It was as simple as that.

But, in case his Lordship had been guilty of over-simplification, he considered the position on the assumption that the very nature of the request or requests had carried with it a permissible implication that the appellant was a supplier of drugs.

Because the precise scope of the request or requests was in some respects a matter of controversy, there were a number of formulations of it.

Cross on Evidence (7th edition (1990) p42) stated: "An assertion

other than one made by a person while giving oral evidence in the proceedings is inadmissible as evidence of any fact asserted."

In deciding whether the rule was being breached, it was essential to examine the purpose for which the evidence was tendered.

In *Subramaniam v Public Prosecutor* (1956) 1 WLR 965, 970 the Privy Council had said: "Evidence of a statement made to a witness by a person who is not himself called as a witness may or may not be hearsay. It is hearsay and inadmissible when the object of the evidence is to establish the truth of what is contained in the statement. It is not hearsay and is admissible when it is proposed to establish by the evidence, not the truth of the statement but the fact that it was made."

Such being the law, Miss Goddard had frankly conceded that, if the enquirer had said in the course of making his request: "I would like my usual supply of amphetamine at the price which I paid you last week," or words to that effect, then, although the enquirer could have been called to give evidence of the fact that he had in the past purchased from the appellant his usual supply of amphetamine and had made his call at the appellant's house for a further supply on the occasion when he had met and spoken to the police, the hearsay rule would have prevented the prosecution from calling police officers to recount the conversation that his Lordship had described.

That was for the simple reason that the request made in such form contained an express assertion that the premises at which the request was being made were being used as a source of supply of drugs and that the supplier was the appellant.

If the simple request or requests for drugs to be supplied by the appellant, as recounted by the police, had contained in substance, but only by implication, the same assertion, then his Lordship could find neither authority nor principle to suggest that the hearsay rule should not be equally applicable and exclude such evidence.

What was sought to be done was to use an oral assertion, even though it might be an implied assertion, as evidence of the truth of the proposition asserted. That the proposition was asserted by way of necessary implication rather than expressly made was, in his Lordship's mind, make any difference.

The object of tendering the evidence would be to establish the truth of what was contained in the statement. That was precisely what the rule prohibited.

LORD BRIDGE, agreeing with Lord Ackner and Lord Oliver, said that he knew of no principle that could be applied to render evidence of many requests admissible if the evidence of each one, considered separately, would not be.

Of course, he appreciated the probative force of a plurality of requests, but the probative force of hearsay evidence in particular circumstances had never afforded a ground for disregarding the hearsay rule.

LORD OLIVER, agreeing the appeal should be allowed, added

that he was very conscious of the difficulty of obtaining direct evidence from witnesses in the prosecution of drug offences and that there might well be a good case for relaxing the rule that excluded hearsay either generally or in cases such as the present so long as the jury received an appropriate direction as to the circumstances in which the hearsay evidence should be received.

But the rule had been evolved and applied over many years in the interest of fairness to persons accused of crime, and if it was now to be modified, that should be done only by the legislature.

LORD GRIFFITHS, dissenting, said that it was hardly surprising that the jury had convicted the appellant for as a matter of common sense it was difficult to think of much more convincing evidence of his activity as a drug dealer than customers constantly ringing his home to buy drugs and a stream of customers bearing a path to his door for the same purpose.

Unless compelled to do so by authority, his Lordship would be most unwilling to hold that such evidence should be withheld from the jury.

The criminal law of evidence should be developed along common sense lines readily comprehensible to the men and women who comprised the jury and bore the responsibility for the major decisions in criminal cases.

His Lordship believed that most laymen, if told that the criminal law of evidence forbade them even to consider such evidence as their Lordships were debating, would reply "Then the law is an ass."

The hearsay rule had been created by their Lordships' judicial predecessors and if their Lordships found that it no longer served to do justice in certain conditions then the judges of today should accept the responsibility of reviewing and adapting the rules of evidence to serve present needs.

It was said that evidence of what had been said by those who had telephoned or called at the appellant's home asking to be supplied with drugs had been

evidence of no more than their belief or opinion that they could obtain drugs from the appellant and, on the authority of *Wright v Doe d Tatham* (1837) 7 A & E 313, to be treated as inadmissible hearsay.

His Lordship could not accept that submission. It was of course true that it was almost certain that the customers had believed that they could obtain drugs from the appellant. But why had they?

The obvious inference was that the appellant had established a market as a drug dealer by supplying or offering to supply drugs and had thus been attracting customers.

There were, of course, other possible explanations such as a mistaken belief or even a deliberate attempt to frame the appellant, but there were very few factual situations from which different inferences could not be drawn and it was for the jury to decide which inference they believed they could safely draw.

The evidence had been offered not for the purpose of inviting the jury to draw the inference that the customers had believed that they could obtain drugs but to prove as a fact that the telephone calls and visitors had been acting as customers or potential customers.

That had been a circumstance from which the jury could, if so minded, have drawn the inference that the appellant was trading as a drug dealer.

The requests for drugs had not been hearsay as generally understood, namely an out-of-court narrative description of facts that had to be proved in evidence. The callers had been neither describing the appellant as a drug dealer nor stating their opinion that he was a drug dealer. They had been calling him up or visiting him as customers, a fact revealed by the words they had used in requesting drugs from him.

Lord Browne-Wilkinson delivered an opinion concurring with Lord Griffiths.

Solicitors: Sharpe Pritchard; CPS, Headquarters.

Jones and Another v Miah and Another

Before Lord Justice Dillon, Lord Justice Nourse and Lord Justice Leggatt
[Judgment April 7]

The definition of "licensee" in the National Conditions of Sale for a purchaser let into occupation before completion did not detract from the definition of "landlord" in section 27(9)(c) of the Housing Act 1988.

The fact that as between the purchaser and the vendor the former was to be regarded as a licensee, rather than a tenant, did not prevent the purchaser from being "in occupation" for the purposes of section 27(9)(c) of the 1988 Act.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment in allowing in part an appeal by the defendant brothers, Mr M. N. Miah and Mr G. M. Miah, against the decision of Judge Quentin Edwards, QC, on April 9, 1990 at Bloomsbury County Court when he awarded damages totalling £17,135 to the plaintiffs, Miss Jennifer Jones and Miss Helen Lee for the tort of unlawful eviction under section 27 and 28 of the 1988 Act, for loss and inconvenience, personal discomfort and distress and aggravated damages. The Court of Appeal reduced the damages to £11,000.

Section 27 of the Housing Act 1988 provides: "(9) ... (a) 'landlord' in relation to a residential occupier, means the person who, but for the occupier's right to occupy, would be entitled to occupation of the premises, and any superior landlord under whom that person derives title."

Mr Raymond Croxon, QC and Mr Robert Blackford for the defendants; Mr David Newberger, QC and Mr Shane Douglas for Miss Lee; Miss Jones did not appear and was not represented.

LORD JUSTICE DILLON said that both actions arose out of events on October 18, 1988,

when both plaintiffs were brutally evicted by the defendants in very distressing circumstances with the concurrence of a Mr Sammy Ahmed, from bed-sitting rooms on the first floor of 23A Camden High Street, London W1 of which they had protected tenancies under section 22 of the Rent Act 1977.

The defendants argued, *inter alia*, that they were not in law the landlords of the plaintiffs at the time of the unlawful eviction and so could not have been liable for damages under sections 27 and 28 of the 1988 Act as landlords in default.

At the time of the wrongful eviction of the plaintiffs, Mr Ahmed and Mr Uddin held a leasehold interest in 23/23A Camden High Street. By a contract in writing dated October 5, Mr Ahmed and Mr Uddin agreed to sell to the defendants the business of a restaurant carried on by the vendors at No 23 together with the bed-sitting rooms on the first floor.

The contract incorporated the National Conditions of Sale (20th edition) which included condition 8: "If the purchaser ... is let into occupation of the property before the actual completion ... the purchaser shall ... (i) be the licensee and not the tenant of the vendor."

Because of the protected tenancies, the vendors were not in a position on October 17 to give vacant possession of the bed-sitting rooms. But on October 18 the plaintiffs were evicted by the defendants and completion took place.

Before October 18, the defendants had been supplied with keys of the upper part of the property and had threatened the plaintiffs with eviction and that they would "play it rough".

With the concurrence of Mr Ahmed, the defendants changed the lock on No 23A so as to prevent the plaintiffs returning to the premises and packed up their belongings in black plastic bags. The defendants said that the

plaintiffs' claim for damages under sections 27 and 28 of the 1988 Act should have been made against Mr Ahmed, who was landlord at the time of the evictions. They said that at that time they were at highest licensees of the vendors under condition 8 of the National Conditions of Sale and that it was well established that a licensee had a mere personal contractual right against his licensor but no interest in land.

The defendants therefore submitted that they could not at the time of the eviction have been entitled to occupation of the premises as against the plaintiffs or anyone else, within the meaning of "landlord" in section 27(9)(c) of the 1988 Act.

In his Lordship's judgment, the definition of "landlord" to be applied was the definition in section 27(9)(c) and not any other definition. That definition had to be read in relation to a landlord and tenant relationship but there was no difficulty in doing that.

The defendants became the owners in equity of the leasehold term when they entered into their contract to purchase it. Condition 8 envisaged that a purchaser might be let into occupation of the property before completion. The fact that as between himself and the vendor he was to be regarded as a licensee whose licence was revocable on notice, rather than as a tenant, did not prevent his being in occupation.

His Lordship could see no reason why the defendants, who were let into occupation by the vendors before completion, did not satisfy the test in the definition of being the persons who, but for the residential occupier's right to occupation, would have been entitled to occupation of the premises.

Lord Justice Nourse and Lord Justice Leggatt delivered concurring judgments.

Solicitors: Lipman Rose & Co; Osbornes, Canon Town.

Human Rights Law Report

Deportation would violate human rights

Beldjoudi v France
(Case No 55/1990/244/317)

Before R. Ryssdal, President and Judges F. Matscher, L.-E. Pettit, C. Russo, A. Spielmann, J. de Meyer, N. Valticos, S. K. Martens and R. Pledkan.

Registrar M.-A. Eissen
[Judgment March 26]

The European Court of Human Rights held, by 7 votes to 2, that if a decision to deport Mr Beldjoudi from France were implemented, there would be a violation of the applicant's right to respect for his family life as guaranteed by article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

Article 8 of the Convention provides:

"1. Everyone has the right to respect for his private and family life, his home and his correspondence.

"2. There shall be no interference by a public authority with the exercise of this right except such as is in accordance with the law and is necessary in a democratic society in the interests of national security, public safety or the economic well-being of the country, for the prevention of disorder or crime, for the protection of health or morals, or for the protection of the rights and freedoms of others."

Mr Mohamed Beldjoudi, the first applicant, was born in France in 1950, of parents of Algerian origin who, like him, lost their French nationality in 1963 after Algeria became independent. He was brought up in France and had always lived there, either with his parents or with the second applicant, Mrs Martine Beldjoudi, his French-born wife, who was born in 1950. His parents and his five brothers

and sisters were all resident in France.

He was convicted in 1969, 1974, 1977 and 1978 of various criminal offences, including an aggravated theft for which he was sentenced to eight years imprisonment.

In November 1979, the Minister of the Interior issued a deportation order against him, on the ground that his presence on French territory constituted a threat to public order.

His application for the order to be set aside was dismissed by the Versailles Administrative Court in April 1988. Mr Beldjoudi had in the meantime been convicted of several other offences in 1986 and had unsuccessfully attempted to obtain a certificate of French nationality in 1983 and 1984.

On January 18, 1991 the Conseil d'Etat dismissed his appeal against the administrative court's decision and the deportation order. The order had not yet been enforced and Mr Beldjoudi was subject to a compulsory residence order for the Hauts-de-Seine Department. He was also under judicial supervision after being charged with aggravated receiving of stolen goods.

In its judgment, the European Court of Human Rights held:

1. Alleged violation of article 8 A Paragraph 1

The Court found that enforcement of the deportation order would constitute an interference by a public authority with the exercise of the applicant's right to respect for his family life.

B Paragraph 2 of article 8 1 In accordance with the law

It was not disputed that the legal basis of the interference was section 23 of the order of November 2, 1945 relating to the conditions of entry and residence

of aliens in France. It was also found to be lawful by the Conseil d'Etat in its judgment of January 18, 1991.

2. Legitimate aims

The Government and the Commission considered that the interference in issue was directed at aims which were entirely in accordance with the Convention, the prevention of disorder and the prevention of crime. The applicants did not dispute that and the Court reached the same conclusion.

3. Necessary in a democratic society

The Court acknowledged that it was the duty of the contracting states to maintain public order, in particular by exercising their right, as a matter of well established international law and subject to their treaty obligations, to control the entry, residence and expulsion of aliens (see *Abdullaziz, Cabales and Balkandali v United Kingdom* of May 28, 1985 (Series A No 94, p34, paragraph 67), *Bernhard v The Netherlands* (The Times June 30, 1988; Series A No 138, pp15-16, paragraph 28-29) and *Moustaquim v Belgium* (The Times May 8, 1991; Series A No 193, p19, paragraph 43).

However, their decisions in that field had, in so far as they might interfere with a right protected under paragraph 1 of article 8, to be necessary in a democratic society, that is to say, justified by a pressing social need and, in particular, proportionate to the legitimate aim pursued.

In the present case, Mr Beldjoudi's criminal record appeared much worse than that of Mr Moustaquim.

The Court therefore examined whether the other circumstances of the case, relating either to both

applicants or to one of them only, were enough to compensate for that important fact.

Having regard to the applicants' ages and the fact that they had no children, the interference in issue, primarily affected their family life as spouses. They had been married in France over twenty years previously and had always had their matrimonial home there.

Mr Beldjoudi's periods of imprisonment had not put an end to their family life, which remained protected by article 8. Mr Beldjoudi, the person immediately affected by the deportation order, had been born in France of parents who were then French and had had French nationality until January 1, 1963. He had taken steps, one year after his first conviction and nine years before the adoption of the deportation order, to recover French nationality.

He had married a French woman and his close relatives had all had French nationality for some time and had been resident in France for several decades. He had spent his whole life, over forty years, in France, had been educated in French and appeared not to have any links with Algeria apart from nationality.

Mrs Beldjoudi had been born in France of French parents, had always lived there and was of French nationality. If she were to follow her husband, she would have to settle abroad, presumably in Algeria, a state whose language she probably did not know. To be uprooted like that could cause her great difficulty in adapting and there might be real practical or legal obstacles.

The Court therefore held,

Judges Pettit and Valticos dissenting, that having regard to these various circumstances, it appeared from the point of view of respect for the applicants' family life that the decision to deport Mr Beldjoudi, if put into effect, would not be proportionate to the legitimate aim pursued and would therefore violate article 8.

Having reached that conclusion, the Court did not need to examine whether the deportation would also infringe the applicants' right to respect for their private life.

II Alleged violation of article 14 in conjunction with article 8

In view of the finding of a violation of article 8, the Court did not consider it necessary to examine in addition the allegation of discrimination contrary to article 14 in the enjoyment of the applicant's right to respect for his family life.

III Alleged violation of articles 3, 9 and 12

As to the complaints relating to articles 3, 9 and 12 were not reiterated before the Court, the Court did not consider it necessary, Judge de Meyer dissenting over the alleged violation of article 3, to examine them on its own motion.

IV Application of article 50 A Damage

The applicants claimed FF10,000,000 in respect of damage. The Court agreed that they must have suffered non-pecuniary damage, but considered that the judgment provided them with sufficient compensation.

B Costs and expenses

The Court considered it reasonable to award FF10,000 for costs and expenses incurred during the proceedings before the Convention institutions.

Drinking after accident

DPP v Lowden

Before Lord Justice Lloyd and Mr Justice Waterhouse
[Judgment April 2]

Once justices had been given clear evidence from an expert as to the amount of alcohol necessary to cause a particular driver to exceed the legal limit and had been given plausible evidence as to the quantity of alcohol consumed after the occurrence of an accident, it was then open to them, in spite of the fact that apparent discrepancies remained unexplained, to find that the defendant had discharged the burden of proof necessary to establish a defence under section 15(3) of the Road Traffic Offenders Act 1988.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held when dismissing a prosecution appeal against the dismissal by Taunton Justices of a

charge against Anthony Gibbon Lowden of driving with excess alcohol, contrary to section 5 of the Road Traffic Act 1988.

Mr Simon Morgan for the prosecution; Mr John Ungley for the defendant.

MR WATERHOUSE said that while travelling along the M5 a wheel of the defendant motorist's car had come off. No one else had been involved in the accident.

On returning home the defendant had consumed alcohol and, on being questioned by police as to the amount, had indicated by reference to a glass tumbler. The tumbler in question and expert witnesses for both sides were present at the hearing.

In *DPP v Singh* (1988) RTR 209 where there had been a similar set of circumstances, the

justices had had no guidance, from experts from which they could draw the conclusions that the defendant had discharged the burden required under section 15(3).

The justices' description of the difference between the amount necessary to form the basis of a charge and that described by the defendant to the police as having been consumed as being minimal had troubled his Lordship but the justices' decision that the defendant had discharged the burden was none the less open to them on the evidence with the adequate expert assistance that they had received.

Lord Justice Lloyd delivered a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Blyth Dutton for CPS Taunton; Dodson Harding, Taunton.

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BBC1

6.00 BBC Breakfast News. Nicholas Wintchell and Laurie Mayer with the latest news and reaction to the result of the general election. Including comprehensive coverage from the BBC's political correspondents and reporters and interviews with senior figures in the three main parties (156316).

9.30 Election '92. David Dimbleby with the results of the morning declaration. Peter Snow examines how and why the country voted the way it did. Peter Snow interviews the politicians, and John Cole gives his reaction to the outcome. Includes News, regional news and weather at 10.00, 11.00 and 12.00 (190381).

12.30 Regional News and weather. (11213).

1.00 One O'Clock News and weather. (53116).

1.30 Election '92. David Dimbleby and the team follow the closing stages of the election including the final results which could be of crucial importance. The cameras will also be in Downing Street to see the winning party's celebrations, at Buckingham Palace to record the coming and goings and at the parties' headquarters as the final outcome is discussed (513403).

4.00 Wildlife On One: Rockies and Rollers. The animal life of the Falklands, narrated by David Attenborough (1) (584).

4.30 Goodbye to the Good Old Days. An affectionate appreciation of the television variety show which finished in 1983 after a run of 30 years (1) (768).

5.00 A Question of Sport introduced by David Coleman, Bill Beaumont and John Parrott are joined by Ray Houghton, Dalton Grant, Alex Greaves and David Feherty (1) (1182958).

5.35 Neighbours. (Ceefax) (530958).

6.00 Six O'Clock News and Election '92 with Anna Ford and Andrew Harvey. (Ceefax) (53132).

7.00 Regional News Magazines. (455213).

7.35 Harry and the Hendersons. A raucous American comedy about a family who befriend a monster after accidentally injuring it on a camping holiday. (Ceefax) (574942).



Entertaining company: Cash, Forsyth and Richard (6.00pm)

8.00 Bruce's Guest Night. The first of a new series of entertainment shows hosted by the irrepressible Bruce Forsyth. His guests are Cliff Richard, American comedienne Rita Rudner, singer Lisa Stansfield, former Wimbledon men's singles champion Pat Cash and Broadway and Dallas star Howard Keel. (Ceefax) (18861).

9.00 Nine O'Clock News and Election '92 with Martin Lewis. (Ceefax) (530958).

9.30 Film: A Cop for the Killing (1990) starring James Farentino. Efficient, fact-based TV movie about the Los Angeles police's undercover narcotic squad who suffer a crisis of confidence after one of their number is killed in the line of duty while on the track of the city's biggest cocaine dealer. Directed by Dick Lowry. (Ceefax) (8964855). Northern Ireland 10.20-10.55 Film: The Mighty Quinn.

11.20 Film: About Last Night (1986) starring Rob Lowe, James Belushi and Demi Moore. An erotic comedy based on David Mamet's play *Sexual Perversity in Chicago* about the city's singles scene in which a couple's one night stand becomes a more permanent but ultimately doomed relationship. Directed by Edward Zwick. (393045). Northern Ireland (11.55-1.25). Film: The Wicker Man.

1.10am Weather (4839411).

BBC2

6.45 Open University: Arts — Handel's Messiah (1781519). Ends at 7.10. **8.00 Breakfast News** (5692213).

8.15 Party Time. The fun of a party (1). (Ceefax) (3838381).

9.00 Film: Dot and the Smugglers (1987). Animated adventure about a little girl in the Australian outback who stops a heartless band of smugglers from stealing the legendary Bunyip (1268316).

9.55 The Angel and the Soldier Boy. More animation, with music from Clannad (1) (9415497). **10.20 Playdays.** For the very young (5) (7550584). **10.40 The Family Nest** (1) (3639942).

10.45 Film: Son of Monte Cristo (1940). b/w starring Louis Hayward, Joan Bennett and George Sanders. Passable minor swashbuckler directed by Rowland V. Lee (6078294).

12.30 The Invisible World. A National Geographic film capturing worlds that cannot be perceived by the human eye (1) (7986316).

1.20 Brum (1) (24634774). **1.30 The Adventures of Spot** (1) (21671478).

1.35 In the Post. A look at some of the world's greatest stamp collections (1) (22944251).

2.00 News and weather (30035584) followed by **Weekend Outlook.** Open University programme preview (30034855). **2.10 Made by Hand.** The skills of the ornamental metalworker (1) (23778229).

2.25 Racing from Newbury. Julian Wilson introduces live coverage of the 2.40, 3.10, 3.40 and 4.10 races (233132).

4.00 The Newswatch of Mighty Mouse (1) (9489126). **4.10 Newswatch** (1) (282553). **4.30 The Rescue Mutant Hermit.** (Ceefax) (8131861).

4.50 Newswatch (3085478). **5.00 Gentle Ben.** A baby elephant is ill-treated by its cruel owner (1). (Ceefax) (5497).

5.30 Top Gear (1) (590). **6.00 Thunderbirds.** (Ceefax) (232687).

6.50 Dr Who. The final episode of the sci-fi adventure *The Sea Devils*, starring Jon Pertwee (1). (Ceefax) (712671).

7.15 100 Per Cent. Last in the teenage 100% series includes an investigation into child sexual abuse (1) (164836).

8.00 Nature: Close Encounters of the European Kind. CHOICE: Continuing his trenchant series on green issues and the European Community, Julian Pettifer submits his country cottage to a check for energy efficiency. It is leaking heat like a sieve. So, to a greater or lesser extent, many other houses in Britain, energy government pleas, few of us have done much to tackle energy loss. It is not just a matter of lower fuel bills. A study in Newcastle upon Tyne suggests that most carbon dioxide, the greenhouse gas that leads to global warming, comes not from factories or cars but the home. The British record is contrasted with that of Denmark, where legislation has compelled householders to become energy conscious. The Danish measures have been incorporated in an EC initiative called Save, which includes energy labelling for homes and household appliances. (Ceefax) (4381).

8.30 Gardeners' World. Geoff Hamilton visits a garden in Tenbury Wells boasting unusual floral colour combinations (6318).

9.00 Victoria Wood as Seen on TV. More comedy sketches, songs and monologues from Miss Wood's 1986 series (1) (4318).



The Andy Warhol of Barcelona: Javier Mariscal (9.30pm)

9.30 Arena: A Spanish Odyssey — a Portrait of Javier Mariscal. CHOICE: "What interests me," declares Javier Mariscal, "is making startling images which break fresh ground." Dubbed the Andy Warhol of Barcelona, Mariscal has carried through this concept in comic strips, posters, television advertisements and eccentric furniture. In Barcelona he helped to design a seafaring restaurant modelled on a luxury liner with a giant prawn on the roof. The iconoclast has now gained respectability as the official designer for the 1992 Olympics. The accolade shows no sign of dampening his irreverent style. Holly Aylett's film attempts the difficult task of trying to pin down an artistic sensibility that breaks out in all directions and is impossible to categorise. If the result is sometimes arbitrary and shapeless, that is a fair summary of the subject (54841).

10.30 Newswatch with Jeremy Paxman (710107).

11.25 Weather (324294).

11.30 Golf. The second round of the US Masters from Augusta (972861). Ends at 1.10am.

ITV

6.00 TV-am (8078584).

9.25 Election '92 introduced by Jon Snow. Reporters and camera crews bring live coverage of the remaining declarations and the views of the party leaders; Alastair Stewart has the detailed results; John Suchet keeps in touch with the state of the parties with the aid of graphic displays; and Julia Somerville, with the help of ITN's exit poll, explains why the public voted in the way they did (46902836).

3.20 Thames News (6075359).

3.25 The Young Doctors. Drama serial set in a large Australian city hospital (1265039).

3.55 The Big Spin. Cartoon adventures (1) (5541923). **4.20 Cartoon** featuring Foghorn Leghorn (1) (5693916). **4.30 Spatz.** Children's comedy drama set in a fast-food restaurant (836).

5.00 Home and Away. Australian family drama series. (Oracle) (2923).

5.30 Early Evening News with John Suchet. (Oracle) (Weather) (316).

6.00 6 O'Clock Live presented by Frank Bough. The guests include Paul Nicholas as he prepares for a special 20th anniversary celebration of the musical *Jesus Christ Superstar*. There is also a live report from Paris by Matthew Kelly and Pat Sharp previewing tomorrow's coverage of the official opening of EuroDisney (895649). **6.55 The Day Twenty-four** important hours in the life of an ordinary member of the public (24792).

7.00 The Help Squad. Michael Parkinson and his team of Annabel Giles, Chris Donat and Jan Rowland, come to the rescue of viewers in trouble (5687).

7.30 Coronation Street. (Oracle) (565).

8.00 Surprise, Surprise. Cilla Black springs unexpected emotional moments on viewers and a member of the studio audience. (Oracle) (1359).



Beating a Yorkshire retreat: Cusack and Berry (9.00pm)

9.00 Heartbeat. CHOICE: Yet another police series opens with young constable Nick (Nick Berry) moving from the smoke to the North York Moors with his doctor wife (Niamh Cusack) and finding the natives not sooty pleased to see them. We are in 1964, which is the cue for a job about Christine Keeler and a discreet travel of the contemporary pop charts. The mood of the series is close to the rough geniality of another Yorkshire drama, *All Creatures Great and Small*. There might be a prowler on the loose, and a motor bike gang threatening to smash up the village dance, but decency and good sense is always likely to prevail. Derek Fowlds shines as Nick's sergeant and Bill Maynard supplies an agreeable comic touch as the neighbourhood eccentric. It seems just the show for those fed up with car chases and designer thugery. (Oracle) (3765).

10.00 News at Ten with Trevor McDonald and Carol Barnes. (Oracle) (Weather) (475497). **10.45 LWT News and weather** (916039).

10.50 The London Programme: Election '92 — the Capital Decides. Trevor Phillips reviews the general election results in London and the South-east (172403).

11.45 Dial Midnight. Phone-in dating service with a resident psychic. Presented by Anastasia Cooke and Samantha Norman (376316).

1.20 The James Whale Radio Show. The acerbic chat show hosts intimidates another collection of phonies-in (1) (6649817).

2.25 American Connections. Competitions designed to test strength and ingenuity (3716879).

3.25 CinemaConnections. The latest news from the movie scene in the United States, introduced by Charlie Tuna (6735498).

3.35 Raw Power. Rock music magazine (1) (889661).

4.45 The American Match. Action from the London Monarchs's first away game of the season — against Barcelona Dragons (515695).

5.45 ITN Morning News with Anne Leathers (5542459). Ends at 6.00.

CHANNEL 4

6.00 Election '92 (8076126).

9.25 The Munsters. Vintage comedy about a ghoulish family, starring Fred Gwynne and Butch Patrick (1) (4609552).

9.55 Road to Avonlea. Episode three of the 13-part children's drama series (1) (5875045). **10.50 Powers of Ten.** Charles and Ray Barnes' animated documentary about maths and physics (1271774).

11.00 Kurdistan to Green Lanes. The story of Ali Hicmet, a Kurd now living in north-east London (1) (6723).

11.30 Get Smart. Secret agent spoof starring Don Adams (129).

12.00 Noah's Ark. The fight to save South America's smallest and tame (1). (Teletext) (78010).

12.30 Business Daily (30233). **1.00 Sesame Street** (1) (80736).

2.00 I Love Lucy (b/w). Vintage comedy starring Lucille Ball with guest Tennessee Ernie Ford (9213).

2.30 Film: Only Yesterday (1993). b/w starring Margaret Sullivan, in her debut role, and John Boles. Stodgy romantic drama about a woman who becomes pregnant by a man who goes to fight in the first world war. On his return their paths cross again when he is an unsuccessful stockbroker on the verge of suicide. Directed by John M. Stahl (25010).

4.30 Fifteen to One. Fast-moving general knowledge quiz (478).

5.00 Cutting Edge. Coppers. East London's Hackney police force in action (1) (2300).

6.00 Happy Days. Nostalgic high school comedy. (Teletext) (1671).

6.30 Tonight with Jonathan Ross. Guest includes Paul Merton (1) (923).

7.00 Channel 4 News with Jon Snow and Fiona Murch. (Teletext) (Weather) (226251). **7.50 First Response** (126171).

8.00 Brookside. Soap set in suburban Merseyside. (Teletext) (15749).



Still treading the boards: artist Carla McDonough (8.30pm)

8.30 Short Stories: Old Pros' Paradise. CHOICE: At Brimsdown House, a home for retired variety artists in Twickenham, they are putting on a Christmas show. The star turn will be Carla McDonough, a peacock blonde who in her heyday performed fan dances, striptease, the splits and something called all-round acrobatic contortionism. This time she will only sing but it is 12 years since her last public performance and the nerves are laid. McDonough is one of the younger residents of a home where the average age is 84. Laurie Wiseman's affectionate film, by turns sad and funny, is a study of growing old in a profession that seems to be particularly long-lived. No one wants to call it a day but there comes a time when the flesh is no longer willing and there are only memories to fall back on, stirred by yellowing photographs and variety bills from 50 and 60 years ago (8584).

9.00 Cheers. Award-winning comedy series set in the Boston watering hole. (Teletext) (1) (56584).

9.30 Flowering Passion. Anna Pavord meets Peggy Cole, a successful grower of container plants (1). (Teletext) (97687).

10.00 Roseanne. Rose and Dan enter into the spirit of Halloween by trying to frighten their obnoxious neighbour. (Teletext) (1) (36039).

10.30 Whose Line Is It Anyway? A b/w comedy (68887).

11.00 The Messiah. Hallelujah! Video. A post-apocalyptic hype by the Hallelujah Chorus for the live performance of the Messiah in Dublin on Monday. With the orchestra and chorus of the Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields, conducted by Sir Neville Marriner (48213).

11.05 Hysteria II. Stephen Fry hosts an AIDS charity music and comedy show at the London Palladium. Among those appearing are Rowan Atkinson, French and Saunders and Hugh Laurie (1) (134856).

1.00 Tonight with Jonathan Ross (1) (36546). Ends at 1.30am.

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCode. The numbers now appearing next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCodes, which allow you to instantly programme your video recorder with a VideoPlus+ handset. VideoPlus+ can be used with most video. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. For more details, see VideoPlus on page 12. VideoPlus is a registered trademark of the VideoPlus Group. VideoPlus, VPM Ltd, 77 Fulham Palace Road, London W8 3JG. VideoPlus, VPM, VideoPlus and Video Programmer are trademarks of Gemstar Marketing Ltd.

SATellite

SKY ONE

• Via the Astra and Mariposa satellites.

6.00am The 11 O'Clock Show (75475045). **6.30am Mr. Peppercorn** (1791478). **6.55am Lamb Chop's Play-Along** (569565). **7.30am The New Law** (1) (57239). **8.00am Tired Detestables** (77667). **8.30am The Young Doctors** (18552). **9.00am The Young and the Rubies** (19942). **9.30am The Young and the Rubies** (19942). **10.00am The Young and the Rubies** (19942). **10.30am The Young and the Rubies** (19942). **11.00am The Young and the Rubies** (19942). **11.30am The Young and the Rubies** (19942). **12.00am The Young and the Rubies** (19942). **12.30am The Young and the Rubies** (19942). **1.00am The Young and the Rubies** (19942). **1.30am The Young and the Rubies** (19942). **2.00am The Young and the Rubies** (19942). **2.30am The Young and the Rubies** (19942). **3.00am The Young and the Rubies** (19942). **3.30am The Young and the Rubies** (19942). **4.00am The Young and the Rubies** (19942). **4.30am The Young and the Rubies** (19942). **5.00am The Young and the Rubies** 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